

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

119 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: FISH LADDERS

Written by

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Follows "EWW138 Water You Doing?"

Curriculum: Elinor and her friends learn about a "fish ladder" that help a salmon up the river that is blocked by a dam.

LS4. Understand that all animals and plants have a life cycle, can reproduce, and change and grow over time.

ES3. Understand that things people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them, but they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things:

FIRST DRAFT: 04-July-19
SECOND DRAFT: 26-July-19

1. EXT. RIVER BEHIND SCHOOL - DAY

Elinor, Olive and Ari are stooping over the river bank with other kids playing nearby. We look over their shoulders and see a salmon whipping its way over some small rocks in shallow water.

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1                                ARI                                1
    Wow that fish is so jumpy!                                *
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2 ELINOR 2
It's sure swimming fast. I wonder
where it's going.

We hear MZ. MOLE, who joined the kids unnoticed.

3 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 3
That fish is on her way to lay her
eggs up the river, which means *
against the flow of the water. *

Pull out to see Mz. Mole standing over the kids shoulder, the fish already on it's way, leaping in the background.

4 OLIVE 4
Fish lay eggs..?

5 ARI 5

But Won't the eggs just wash down *

this fast river? *

Mz. Mole sits down on a rock by the riverbed and brings out a pop-up book. The other children have taken notice and gather around.

6 MZ. MOLE 6

Very good reasoning, Ari! Momma
fish has to find a safer spot where
the water is much slower. Let's
have a look.. *

*

*

Mz. Mole opens the book

2. EXT POOL IN A RIVER (BOOK) -- DAY

Top-down view on tiny, slightly luminescent, pinkish pearls of salmon roe, scattered all over and among pebbles at the bottom of a river pool.

7	MZ. MOLE	7	
	Some fish start life as tiny eggs.		*
	To keep them safe, the mother fish		*
	swims far up river to find a calm		*
	pool of water to lay her eggs.		*

Close up on one of the eggs, which hatches into a baby salmon: just a giant pair of eyes with a hint of a transparent fish body. It wiggles its tail. <SFX: KIDS AWWWW>

8	OLIVE (O.S.)	8	
	It's so small!		

9	ELINOR (O.S.)	9	
	Can that little fish swim up the		*
	fast river??		*

10	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	10	
	Not until it gets bigger and		*
	stronger!		*

Tiny hatchlings drift downstream with the current. Close up on our hero fish as she gradually grows larger, developing into an adult size and shape.

11	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	11	
	The baby fish are carried down		
	stream by the river, and eventually		
	go out to sea.		

Hero fish swims in the deep ocean. She's bigger now. She swims impressively, dashing back and forth, and then leaping out of the water!

12	ARI (O.S.)	12	
	Woah, nice moves!		

13	OLIVE (O.S.)	13	
	She looks so strong!		

14	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	14	
	Nice observation! In the ocean,		*
	fish grow big and strong. She's so		*
	strong, that now she can swim UP		*
	stream, against the current, when		*
	it's time to lay her eggs.		*

Our big and grown hero fish makes her way up the river, against the current.

15 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 15
They use their powerful bodies to
swim up tricky parts of the river, *
just like you saw that fish doing. *

BACK ON: the river, the kids, and Mz. Mole. A fish
powerfully leaps over a log in the background! *

BACK ON: the storybook, we see an imposing dam blocking the
river. *

16 ELINOR 16
But Mz. Mole! There's something
blocking the river! How can the *
fish swim upstream now? *

17 MZ. MOLE 17
Good observation! People built a
dam, which blocks the river. Fish *
can jump very high but not *that* *
high! *

Storybook shows a view looking upstream as an imposing dam
blocks the river. Step by step, a fish ladder appears as
pools going the long way around the dam. *

18 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 18
But, while people build dams to *
block rivers, people *also* can build *
"fish ladders" to help the fish get *
over the dam. *

Hero fish looks at the imposing dam, then at the fish ladder,
and then back at the dam. She chooses fish ladder. She leaps
from pool to pool, progressing up and around the dam. *

19 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 19
Nice choice, fishy friend! She
can't jump as high as the dam, but
she can jump as high as each step
in the ladder, and, step by step,
travel up and over the dam... to *
the same calm pool where she was *
born. *

Exhausted hero fish dives into her home pool and relaxes. Ms.
Mole closes the book. Suddenly <SFX: SPLASH>. The kids get
splashed and <SFX: LAUGH> *

ANGLE ON: The salmon rests in a pool upstream

20 ELINOR 20
Our fish made it too! Welcome
home, fishy friend.

THE END