

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

119 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: FISH LADDERS

Written by

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Follows "EWW138 Water You Doing?"

Curriculum: The kids learn that spiders can travel by releasing silk that catches the wind.

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

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.

ARI

Wow that fish is so wriggly!

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 its way to lay her
eggs up the river.

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..?

[illegible]

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
That's right! 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 - like your salmon friend
here - start life as tiny eggs
scattered at the bottom of pools of
water, way up rivers like this one.

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

9 OLIVE (O.S.) 9
I don't think that little fish can swim up any rivers!

10 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 10
That's right, Olive.

Tiny hatchlings drift downstream with the current. Close up on our hero fish. The book flips through a series of background changes as the fish moves further down river, but stays focused on hero fish. She gets larger with each change.

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 lunges at some prey animals with a rapid burst of speed and snaps them up.

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

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

14 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 14
The fish grow up way out in the ocean. Then, when it's time to lay their eggs, they swim up the very same rivers they were born in.

Aerial shot: our big and grown hero fish makes its way up the mouth of a river.

15 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 15
They use their powerful bodies to dash up tricky parts of the river, just like you saw your salmon friend doing a moment ago.

BACK ON: the river, the kids, and Mz. Mole. A fish powerfully leaps over a log in the background! Elinor looks up stream and sees a dam blocking the fishes' path.

16 ELINOR 16
But Mz. Mole! There's a dam in the
way! Can the fish jump over the
dam..?

17 MZ. MOLE 17

Well, some fish can jump as high as
a house! But not over that dam,
I'm afraid, it's VERY big..

BACK ON: The book, showing 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
To help the fish, people build
"fish ladders" that go around dams.

Fish's POV as fish looks at the imposing dam, then at the fish ladder, and then back at the dam. She chooses fish ladder. Fish POV: She leaps from pool to pool, progressing up and around the dam.

19 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 19
Nice choice, fishy friend! Even
though fish can't jump as high as
the dam, they can jump as high as
each step in the ladder, and, step
by step, make it around the dam...
to the same pools where they were
born.

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