

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 121 Feed The Birds
By Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: How do birds find food in the winter?

Logline: Elinor and her friends build a birdfeeder for her friend Chicky the chickadee by using things they find in the house.

Curriculum Goals:

LS3. Understand that all animals need food in order to live and grow, that they get their food from plants or from other animals: (Elinor will observe the birds foraging for food)

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function'): Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world. (Elinor designs a birdfeeder that looks and functions like the tree where she observed the Chickadee was storing her seeds.)

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

d. plan and conduct simple investigations using simple tools (binoculars, notebook)

e. Design and build a solution to a simple problem (engineering) (Elinor and her friends design birdfeeders so the birds will have access to more winter food.)

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data

c. Record observations to describe patterns and/or relationships in the natural and designed world(s) (Elinor and her friends will observe the birds foraging for food and make the connection to birdfeeders)

in order to answer scientific questions and solve problems.

d. Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem, and why it might have happened (Elinor and her friends observe the different ways birds find food in the winter, and decide to help solve the problem by building bird feeders)

ET1. Begin to understand that asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems, and that it is important to clearly understand the problem b. Define a simple problem that can be solved through the design of a new or improved tool or technology (Elinor and her friends define the problem of winter food sources for birds and (partially) solve it by making bird feeders.)

ET2. Begin to understand that people depend on various technologies in their lives and that human life would be very different without technology: a. Begin to use a variety of technologies (high-tech and low-tech) for a variety of purposes including to make observations, conduct investigations, and solve problems related to scientific

investigations and engineering design b. Use a variety of low-tech tools including writing, drawing and painting utensils, scissors, magnifiers, binoculars (Elinor and her friends use binoculars and notepads to observe the birds, and scissors, paint, string, and recycled craft supplies to make bird feeders.)

(A NOTE ABOUT CHICKADEE SOUNDS: The distinctive "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" call is actually a distress call, but it is so recognizable that I think we should use it. The Chickadee SONG (as opposed to the call) sounds more like "Fee-Bee" or "Sweet-ie" and is also very familiar.

Chickadee call: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8oW5DqPGCA>

Chickadee song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2UJzLb6Zek>

Liner Count: 115

Main Characters: Elinor, Ranger Rabbit, Olive, Ari

Settings: Elinor's house and back yard

Props: robins, sparrows, chickadee, berries, Canada geese, sunflower seeds, binoculars, Olive's notebook, crab-apples, bug, sunflower head, crafting supplies including paper towel roll, milk carton paper plates, string and paint.

OUTLINE: February 8, 2019

FIRST DRAFT: March 4, 2019

It's a late fall day (no snow yet) and ELINOR is watching the flittering winter birds in the trees (two American Robins, two White-throated Sparrows and a Downy Woodpecker).

8 ELINOR (CONT'D) 8
Another berry? Chicky, you must be
hungry!

Chicky flies off. At that moment Ranger Rabbit calls from the house.

9 RANGER RABBIT 9
(calling)
Elinor! Time to come in!

10	ELINOR	10
	(calling)	
	See you tomorrow, Chicky!	

INT. ELINOR'S BEDROOM - LATER

It's dark outside and we can see through the window that it has started snowing. RANGER RABBIT is helping Elinor get ready for bed.

11 ELINOR 11
Guess what, Mom? I saw Chicky
today.

12 RANGER RABBIT 12
Oh, your chickadee friend? How is
she?

13 ELINOR 13
She's great only...
 (thinking)
Why is she still here?

14 RANGER RABBIT 14
What do you mean?

15 ELINOR 15
Mz. Mole said birds fly south where
it's warm in winter, because it's
hard to find food when the snow
comes.

16 RANGER RABBIT 16
That's true.

17 ELINOR 17
So why didn't Chicky fly south like
the geese I saw today?

18 RANGER RABBIT 18

Well, not all birds fly south for the winter. Lots of birds stay here, not just Chicky, and the ones that stay are the ones who can find food.

Then Ranger Rabbit kisses Elinor on the head.

19	RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D)	19
	Have a good sleep, honey bunny.	
	I'll see you in the morning.	

She turns out the light and leaves the room. Elinor lies in bed watching the snow.

20	ELINOR	20
	But how can Chicky find food with	
	all this snow?	

EXT. ELINOR'S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

The yard is completely covered in snow. Elinor (in winter gear) bounds outside, doing great bunny hops.

21	ELINOR	21
	Whoo-hooo! SNOW-TIME!	

Then she sees a lump in the snow right where Chicky's berry bush was and she remembers.

22	ELINOR (CONT'D)	22
	Uh-oh. That's Chicky's berry-bush!	

Elinor starts looking around for her bird-friend.

23	ELINOR (CONT'D)	23
	Chicky? Are you here? Chicky!	

At that moment ARI and OLIVE show up (also in winter gear). Ari is munching on some sunflower seeds from a bag.

24	ARI	24
	(mouth full)	
	Hey Elinor, (munch, munch) what are	
	you doing?	

25	ELINOR	25
	I'm looking for Chicky -	
	CHICKEEEEE!	

26	OLIVE	26
	Oh, you mean the little bird with	
	the pretty black cap?	

27	ELINOR	27
	Yep, that's her.	

28	OLIVE	28
	I love her. She's sooo friendly.	

29 ARI 29
 (mouth full)
But don't birds fly south in the
winter?

30 ELINOR 30
Not all of them. My Mom said some
birds stay here.

Olive is distracted by Ari's <SFX: MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH>.

31 OLIVE 31
Ari, what are you eating?

32 ARI 32
 (mouth full munch, munch)
Sunflower seeds! Want some?

33 ELINOR/OLIVE 33
Sure!

Olive, Ari and Elinor munch on the sunflower seeds, (Olive
using her trunk to feed herself - <SFX: MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH>.

34 ELINOR 34
I'm a little worried about Chicky.

35 OLIVE 35
Why?

36 ELINOR 36
Yesterday I saw her pecking at the
berries on that little berry-bush.

She points to a lump in the snow.

37 ARI 37
What bush? I don't see any bush.
Just a lump of...oh, I get it.

38 OLIVE 38
 (putting it together)
Uh-oh. Chicky's berry-bush is
covered in snow.

39 ELINOR 39
Yep. EVERYTHING is covered in snow.

40 OLIVE 40
Then how will Chicky be able to
find berries?

41 ARI 41
Or ANY food?

42 ELINOR 42
Good question. Wait here.

She runs OS.

43 OLIVE 43
These sunflower seeds are good,
Ari.

44 ARI 44
Yeah, they don't have any salt on
them. I don't like salt.

Elinor returns with her binoculars.

45 ELINOR 45
Okay, bird-watchers. We need MORE
observations.

EXT. FOREST -- DAY

As Elinor hops ahead in the lead, investigating with her binoculars, Olive and Ari spitball.

46 ELINOR 46
So we're trying to figure out how
birds find food in winter.

47 ARI 47
Maybe they order pizza.

48 OLIVE 48
Maybe, but I don't think birds have
phones.

49 ARI 49
Right, good point.

50 OLIVE 50
Maybe they put their food in lunch
boxes, like we do.

51 ARI 51
Maybe. But how would they carry
them? They don't have hands.

52 ELINOR 52
Look! I see something fluttering
in the trees!

ANGLE ON: A robin, flying through the trees.

53

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Follow that bird!

53

MONTAGE:

Elinor observes with the binoculars, and Olive makes notes on, the different ways that the other birds find winter food:

• BIN POV: (SCIENCE CU) They see three American Robins pecking at leftover crab-apples in a tree covered in snow.

ON KIDS: Olive draws a picture of an apple.

• BIN POV: (SCIENCE CU) The Downy Woodpecker pulls out a bug in the tree-trunk.

ON KIDS: Olive draws a picture of a bug.

• BIN POV: Two sparrows have found an old sunflower head that sticks out of the deep snow in Elinor's sleeping garden.

ON KIDS: Olive draws a picture of a sunflower.

END MONTAGE

The kids are watching the sparrows on the sunflower head.

54

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Hard to believe that was a big
sunflower in summer - but it was!
That's sooo interesting.

54

55

ARI
The birds love sunflower seeds,
just like us! (Munch, munch,
munch).

55

Suddenly they hear the distinctive <SFX: CHICK-A-DEE-DEE>.

56

ELINOR
That's CHICKY! I know it's her
because she always goes...
(imitating)
Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee! C'mon!

56

EXT. CHICKY'S TREE - DAY

They find Chicky pecking at a hole in a tree.

57

ELINOR
There she is!

57

58 OLIVE 58
What's she doing?

59 ARI 59
I'll get a better look.

Ari flies up to get a better look and Elinor looks through her binoculars. BIN POV: Ari checks out Chicky's stash.

60 ARI (CONT'D) 60
Hey! There are seeds and berries
stored in this tree.

Ari lands on the ground.

61 ELINOR 61
I'll bet Chicky put them there! I
saw her flying off with berries in
her beak yesterday.

62 OLIVE 62
Smart Chicky! It's like her own
little cupboard.

63 ARI 63
So, THAT'S how she gets food during
the winter.

64 ELINOR 64
Seems like it. She has a little
stash, and when she's hungry she
just goes there and gets some.

65 ARI 65
Cool! B-uut I noticed there aren't
that many seeds in that hole.

66 ELINOR 66
Uh-oh. Chicky might run out of
food before the end of the winter!

Suddenly Olive has an idea.

67 OLIVE 67
I know! Let's give her some of OUR
sunflower seeds!

68 ARI 68
Great idea!

Ari offers the seeds to Olive. Olive, she takes a few with her trunk and holds them up.

69 OLIVE 69
(very quietly)
Here you go Chicky, some nice seeds
for you.

A beat then CHICKY LANDS ON HER!!!

The three kids <SFX: GASP> with excitement as the cute little
bird looks at them with one friendly black eye, then she
takes a seed and flutters off!!

70 ARI 70
Whoaaa! Did you see that?

Olive starts jumping up and down with excitement.

71 OLIVE 71
(thrilled)
She landed on me! She landed on
me! I can't believe Chicky landed
on me!!

72 ELINOR 72
Let's go tell my Mom!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Back at home, the excited kids tell Ranger Rabbit what
they've observed.

73 ELINOR 73
We saw birds looking for food in
all kinds of cool places, Mom.

74 ARI 74
Like cracks in trees!!

75 OLIVE 75
And on my TRUNK!

76 RANGER RABBIT 76
Yep, winter-loving birds find food
everywhere - that's called
foraging. It's tricky for birds to
find food in the snow, I'm sure
Chicky appreciated the sunflower
seeds.

77 ELINOR 77
Wait a minute, that gives me a
GREAT idea. Let's build bird-
feeders for Chicky and her bird
friends.

78 ARI 78
But what will we make them out of?

79 OLIVE 79
I know, we can "forage" in the
house for things to use to make
bird-feeders.

80	RANGER RABBIT	80
	That's a fabulous plan - forage away, kids!	

QUICK MONTAGE OF MATERIAL FORAGING:

The kids look around the house in drawers, cupboards and the blue recycle bin.

81 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI 81
(singing)
ALL: Let's feed the birds
Let's feed the birds
Winter is snowy so
Let's feed the birds

Chicky needs a birdfeeder
We'll make her something great
From things we find around the
house...

Olive finds string in a drawer. Elinor takes the last paper towel off the roll, revealing the cardboard tube underneath - perfect! Ari finds a paper plates in a cupboard

OLIVE- (spoken) Some string
ELINOR - (spoken) A tube
ARI - (spoken) A paper plate

The kids gather around the kitchen table where Ranger Rabbit has laid out tape, paint, kid-friendly scissors and other craft supplies.

We'll make Chicky a birdfeeder
And when our work is through
She'll have lots of food to eat
And all her friends will too!

Let's feed the birds
Let's feed the birds
Winter is snowy so
Let's feed the birds

END MONTAGE

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Gathered around the table, the kids have just finished building birdhouses with the things they have found.

82 OLIVE 82

Finished!

She holds up her creation. Olive has painted a milk carton to look like a house.

83 ELINOR 83
You made a milk carton into a house
- that's so smart, Olive!

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84                                ARI                                84
                                It's even got a door that works -
                                nice!

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85 OLIVE 85
That way the seeds can stay safe
inside. What did you make Ari?

This!

ARI

Ari holds up two paper plates held together with string.

87 ARI (CONT'D) 87
It's a flying saucer bird feeder I
made from two paper plates and some
string. The top plate is the roof
and you put the seeds on the bottom
plate.

He "flies it around"

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88                                ARI (CONT'D)                                88
                                (flying saucer noises)
                                Boop-beep-boop.
                                (alien voice)
                                Take us to your birdseed.

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89 OLIVE 89
(laughing)
Let's see your birdfeeder, Elinor!

Elinor decorated a paper towel roll to look like a tree trunk with a little hole in the side (near the bottom, which is blocked) and a small perch.

90 OLIVE (CONT'D) 90
It looks just like Chicky's tree!

91	ELINOR	91
	Yep. I made it out of a paper-towel roll. You just pour the food in the top and it comes out this hole on the side. And she can sit on this little stick and eat.	
92	ARI	92
	Cool!	
93	ELINOR	93
	Now we just have to fill up our bird-feeders with food.	
94	ARI	94
	Too bad we ate up all the sunflower seeds, Chicky seemed to really like them.	
	Ranger Rabbit overhears and chuckles.	
95	RANGER RABBIT	95
	Hmmm, sunflower seeds, eh.	
	She goes to the cupboard and takes out a bag.	
96	ELINOR	96
	Mom! You have a secret stash!	
97	OLIVE	97
	Just like Chicky!	
98	RANGER RABBIT	98
	And these are special sunflower seeds - just for birds!	
99	ELINOR	99
	Thanks, Mom. What else do birds like to eat, Olive?	
	Olive checks her notes.	
100	OLIVE	100
	Uhhh, apples.	
101	RANGER RABBIT	101
	I have apples right here. I'll cut some slices.	
102	OLIVE	102
	And bugs!	

103	RANGER RABBIT	103
	Sorry, kids. No bugs in my kitchen.	

The kids <SFX: LAUGH>

104 ELINOR 104
Sunflower seeds and apples are
plenty, thanks Mom! Let's go!

EXT. ELINOR'S HOUSE - DAY

Ari is fluttering up near a bare winter tree, hanging the last birdfeeder.

ARI

There we are!

106 OLIVE 106
Perfect! Nice work Ari.

ELINOR

Yep, now all we need is...

Chicky flies OS.

108	ELINOR (CONT'D)	108
	LOOK! It's Chicky!! Hello Chicky!	

Chicky gives her friendly <SFX: FEE-BEE CALL>

109 ELINOR (CONT'D) 109
(imitating Chicky)
Fee-Bee, Fee-Bee!

Chicky settles on Elinor's bird-feeder and takes a peck.

110 ELINOR (CONT'D) 110
She's using it! She's using the
birdfeeder I made!

At that moment the other birds (the sparrows, the robins, the woodpecker) all arrive and land on the bird-feeders too!

111 OLIVE 111
And so are all her bird friends!

112	ARI	112
	Eat all the food you want, birdies!	

113 ELINOR 113
We put it there for you!

The kids admire their handiwork, happy to see the birds enjoying their feast.

114	ARI	114
	Wow, watching those birds makes me huuuungry.	

115	OLIVE	115
	Maybe we should build an Ari-feeder next!	

All three kids <SFX: LAUGH> as we...

FADE OUT.