

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 123 Backyard Soup

By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: Why are the plants different at my grandparents' house?

Logline: Elinor learns that different plants grow in different environments.

Curriculum Goals:

- LS5c: Recognize that each kind of living things has a habitat that has resources to meet its unique needs [Elinor learns that different habitats support different plants]
- LS3: Understand that all animals need food in order to live and grow, that they get their food from plants or from other animals, and that plants need water and light to live and grow [Elinor learns that plants need water and sun]
- SEP1a: Demonstrate curiosity about the greater world outside of their local environment [Elinor wonders why plants in the desert are different]
- SEP3b: Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail [Elinor makes a list of desert and home veggies and compares them]
- SEP6a: Use background knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena (science) [Elinor explains why the different environment means different plants]

LINE COUNT: 118

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Baba, Bibi,

SECONDARY: Ranger Rabbit, Ranger Rabbit

LOCATIONS: Elinor's Back Yard, Elinor's Kitchen, Animal Town Train Station, Train, Desert Town Train Station,

PROPS: Basket, Animal Town veggies, Soup Pot, bowls, train, Desert Town Veggies

OUTLINE: Apr 2, 2019

FIRST DRAFT: April 22, 2019

SECOND DRAFT: May 14, 2019

1. EXT BACKYARD ELINOR'S HOUSE -- DAY

It's late afternoon in the Rabbit house, and we find Elinor and Ari outside in the vegetable garden.

Ari is hanging upside down from a low branch, making silly faces to himself in a puddle of water below him. There's a basket of veggies (cauliflower, peas, potatoes) next to the puddle.

*

1 ELINOR 1
C'mon Ari, we need to find all of
the vegetables on this list.

Elinor is holding a sheet of paper with a list of vegetables: we see drawings of peas, potatoes, cauliflower, carrots and radishes.

2 Oh, right! ARI 2

Ari flutters down to join her, picking up the basket.

3 ARI (CONT'D) (CONT'D) 3
Mmmm. I can't wait. I LOVE having
dinner at your house, Elinor. It's
always so yummy!

4 ELINOR 4
Yeah, my dad is a good cook. And
tonight is a special treat.

Elinor gathers a few veggies (carrots, radishes) as they chat. Ari is carrying the basket.

*

5 ARI 5
It is? How come?

6 ELINOR 6
We're having my FAVORITE: "Backyard
Soup!"

7 ARI 7

Yay! <beat> Wait... is that soup
made from your backyard?

He looks down at the wet mud and puddle-y ground.

8	ARI (CONT'D)	8
	... like leaves and mud?	

Elinor laughs.

9	ELINOR	9
	No, silly. It's vegetable soup, but we call it backyard soup because we use vegetables that grow in our backyard garden!	
10	ARI	10
	Whew! That sounds better.	
	Elinor checks her list.	
11	ELINOR	11
	I think we got all of it! Peas, potatoes, cauliflower, carrots and radishes!	*
12	ARI	12
	That's a lot of different veggies!	
13	ELINOR	13
	Mmm-hmmm. My mom says these plants need a lot of water to help them grow so it's good that it's been raining a lot.	* * *
	Ari is stepping in and out of the mud. <SFX: SQUISH>	*
14	ARI	14
	And rain makes the ground so squishy! Don't plants need sunshine too?	* *
15	ELINOR	15
	Yep, water AND sun help plants grow big and strong to make all these veggies.	* *
16	ARI	16
	...that turn into our dinner!	*

The kids giggle as they finish up and head towards the house.

2. INT KITCHEN ELINOR'S HOUSE -- DAY

Ari, Elinor, Ranger Rabbit and Mr. Rabbit are at the dinner table. On the table is a big pot of soup. The rabbits are leaning back with full bellies and contented smiles. Ari is still eating.

17 MR. RABBIT 17
Thanks for picking the veggies and
helping to make the soup, kids!

18	ARI	18	
	MmmmmmmMMMM. It's sooo good. Can I have ANOTHER bowl?		
19	MR. RABBIT	19	
	A THIRD bowl of soup? Of course! Coming right up!		
	He ladles some more soup into Ari's bowl.		
20	ELINOR	20	
	This is the yummiest pot of Backyard Soup ever!		*
			*
21	ARI	21	*
	Mmmm hmmm! Can I come over for dinner again tomorrow?		*
			*
22	RANGER RABBIT	22	
	You're always welcome, Ari. But, tomorrow we are taking the train to visit Elinor's grandparents!		*
			*
23	ELINOR	23	
	Yay! I love taking the train. And I can't wait to see BaBa and BiBi again!		
24	ARI	24	
	Who are BaBa and BiBi?		
25	ELINOR	25	
	That's what I call my grandparents! What do you call your grandpa and grandma, Ari?		
26	ARI	26	
	Oh. I call mine Grandpa and Grandma.		
	They all <SFX: GIGGLE>. Elinor's parents get up to start cleaning up.		
27	ELINOR	27	
	We have to take the train because they live far away, in a place called Desert Town.		*
28	ARI	28	
	Oohhh.		

29 ELINOR 29 *

I haven't been there since I was a
baby bunny, so I don't really
remember what it's like.

30 ARI 30

What are you going to do there?

31 ELINOR 31

Hmm... Oh! I have a great idea! I
can show BaBa and BiBi how to make
Backyard Soup at THEIR house.

She holds up the recipe they just used.

32 ELINOR (CONT'D) 32

If you loved it, BaBa and BiBi are
going to love it, too!

33 ARI 33

Great idea! Can I have a FOURTH
bowl?

3. EXT ELINOR'S HOUSE -- NIGHT/DAY *

The door opens and we see Ari wave goodbye as he leaves. *

We see the sun set over animal town and a new day starts. *

The door opens again and we see the Rabbit family with bags
leaving their house. *

4. INT TRAIN -- DAY

Open on Elinor settling into her seat by the window. Ranger
Rabbit sits down with a book while Mr. Rabbit puts a few of
their bags in the overhead shelf.

34 ELINOR 34

I'm sooo excited to see BaBa and
BiBi!

35 RANGER RABBIT 35

I'm sure they are excited to see
you too, Elinor.

36 ELINOR 36

I hope they like our surprise.

37 MR. RABBIT 37

What surprise? We brought a
surprise? That's a surprise to me!

38	ELINOR	38
	Our recipe for Backyard Soup.	*

She holds up the ingredient list.

39 ELINOR (CONT'D) 39
It tells you all the vegetables you
need. I hope they like it as much
as I do. *

Elinor's parents smile and settle in as the train pulls away from the station. Elinor moves excitedly to the window.

40 ELINOR (CONT'D) 40
Here we go!

Elinor is captivated by the view out the window. She watches in wonderment as the train leaves Animal Town, and we see that the landscape is full of trees and flowers and greenery.

Over music, we CROSSFADE to show the passage of time as the train rolls along the countryside. The lush green of the forest soon gives way to a sparser environment and the scene looks different: shorter bushes, few trees, a little browner. Elinor looks curiously engaged. Soon, the landscape looks even more arid, and the train pulls to a stop.

NOTE: if we need to add time - we could have a very cute
montage as we are seeing the terrain change we also show
Elinor with her parents in variety of poses, she's
reading/drawing, Elinor is asleep, Mr. Rabbit is asleep,
Ranger Rabbit is reading, they are having a snack etc.

41 ELINOR (CONT'D) 41
Yay! We're here!

5. EXT DESERT TOWN TRAIN STATION -- DAY

Outside, we see the station at her grandparent's town. It's a sunny, dry desert, and there are cacti and short shrubs around.

Elinor comes bounding in, very excited to see her grandparents.

42 ELINOR 42
BaBa! BiBi!

43	GRANDMA	43
	Come here and get a hug, my sweet	*
	little Elinor.	*

44 ELINOR 44 *

I'm not so little anymore! *

I'm not so little anymore!

Elinor hugs her grandmother.

45 GRANDPA 45

Me too!

Me too!

Elinor hugs her grandfather. Mr. Rabbit reminds them that he
is there too, clearing his throat ostentatiously <SFX: Ahem>.

is there too, clearing his throat ostentatiously <SFX: Ahem>.

Mr. Rabbit gets a hug from Grandma. *

46 RANGER RABBIT 46
And don't forget about me!

And don't forget about me!

Elinor gives her mom a hug, and they all laugh and start to walk to Grandma and Grandpa's house. In the way they talk and in their mannerisms, we see a few of the traits that make Elinor who she is: BiBi (Grandma) is very curious, and BaBa (Grandpa) is very optimistic and cheerful.

47 GRANDPA 47
How was your trip?

How was your trip?

48 ELINOR 48
It was so fun! I looked out the
window the whole time.

It was so fun! I looked out the window the whole time.

49 GRANDMA 49
I love riding trains and looking
out the window, too. You see so
many interesting things!

I love riding trains and looking out the window, too. You see so many interesting things!

BiBi wiggles her ears, and Elinor wiggles hers too.

50 ELINOR 50
Yeah! I saw lots of big trees and
bushes... and then later I saw
smaller plants.

Yeah! I saw lots of big trees and bushes... and then later I saw smaller plants.

51 GRANDPA 51
Well, what do you think of Desert
Town so far?

Well, what do you think of Desert Town so far?

Elinor thinks for a second, and looks around a bit.

52 ELINOR 52
I like it! It's so different here.

I like it! It's so different here.

53 GRANDMA 53
How so, Elinor?

How so, Elinor?

54 ELINOR 54
Well, first of all, I noticed it's
a lot hotter here.

Elinor stops to wipe her brow. She's visibly sweating, as are
Ranger Rabbit and Mr. Rabbit, who is comically sweating
buckets. <SFX: Whew> *

55 ELINOR (CONT'D) 55
And... I also noticed that the
ground looks different.

She points to the ground and pokes it with her toe, moving a
little bit of the dirt.

56 ELINOR (CONT'D) 56
There's almost no grass and the
dirt doesn't look like the dirt
back home. It's so dusty! At home
the ground is wet and squishy. *

57 GRANDMA 57
That's a great observation, Elinor.

58 GRANDPA 58
Welcome to the desert! It's dry and
hot here.

Elinor looks a little confused by that.

59 RANGER RABBIT 59
That means there's less water
around, Elinor. It doesn't rain as
much in the desert, so the ground
looks and feels dry.

Elinor looks with wonder at the ground.

60 ELINOR 60
That's so INTERESTING! Well, dry or
wet, I'm just happy to see you,
BaBa and BiBi! *

Everyone laughs as they continue away from the station.

6. INT GRANDPARENTS' KITCHEN -- DAY

We open in the Grandparents' kitchen, as Elinor gulps down a
whole glass of water.

61 ELINOR 61
Wow, I was thirsty!

62 GRANDPA 62 *
What would you like to do first,
Elinor?

63 ELINOR 63
I know just the thing. I want to
show you how to make my favorite
soup!

64 GRANDPA 64
YOU are going to show us how to
make soup? I'd like to see THAT!

BiBi wiggles her ears.

65 ELINOR 65
Well, you'll have to help me with
the cooking part. But I'm going to
get all the ingredients from your
garden!

She pulls out her list.

66 GRANDPA 66
Wonderful. What is it called?

67 ELINOR 67
It's called Backyard Soup!

68 GRANDMA 68 *
Well, that is so... INTERESTING!

69 ELINOR 69
And delicious! You'll see! Which
way is your garden?

70 GRANDPA 70
The backyard is through that door.

71 ELINOR 71
Ok, I'll be right back!

Elinor grabs a basket and runs out into their backyard.

7. EXT GRANDPARENTS YARD AND GARDEN -- DAY

Elinor checks her list.

72 ELINOR 72
Let's see. I need peas, potatoes,
cauliflower, carrots and radishes.

She looks around, but the garden looks pretty different from her parents' garden at home. It has different kinds of plants.

73 ELINOR (CONT'D) 73
Ok, first: peas.

She walks around the rows of plants, but she can't find any!
She seems puzzled.

74 ELINOR (CONT'D) 74
Hmmm, where are the peas?

She looks around a bit more but doesn't find them.

75 ELINOR (CONT'D) 75
I'll try the next vegetable.
Potatoes. They have to have
potatoes!

She looks around again, but doesn't find any potatoes.

76 ELINOR (CONT'D) 76
No potatoes either?

She scratches her head in confusion. She looks down her list.

8. INT GRANDPARENTS' KITCHEN -- DAY

Elinor walks back into the kitchen, looking a bit discouraged.

77 GRANDMA 77
What's wrong, Elinor?

78 ELINOR 78
Your backyard garden doesn't have
peas or potatoes or ANY of the
veggies we need for Backyard Soup!

79 GRANDPA 79
Really? None of them?

Elinor hands Grandpa the list, and he reads it through his reading glasses.

80 ELINOR 80
Not one! All the plants are
different. I didn't recognize any
of them.

Elinor sits down.

81 ELINOR (CONT'D) 81
Why don't the same veggies that
grow in my garden at home grow in
this garden?

The grandparents look at each other and know just what to do.

82 GRANDMA 82

Well, I wonder... what do you think
is different about this backyard
and the one you have at home?

As she processes the question, we see her discouragement turn to curiosity.

83 ELINOR 83
Hmmm, that's a good question!

The grandparents smile. Elinor has an idea.

84 ELINOR (CONT'D) 84
Let's go find out. We need MORE
OBSERVATIONS!

9. EXT GRANDPARENTS YARD AND GARDEN -- DAY

Back outside with her two grandparents, Elinor starts looking around.

85 ELINOR 85
OK. What's different here?

She looks around with her hand shading her eyes.

86 ELINOR (CONT'D) 86
It's much hotter and sunnier here.

She looks at the ground and again notices how dry it is compared to the wet soil at home.

87 ELINOR (CONT'D) 87
And the ground is really dry. That
means there's a lot less water
here.

Elinor goes over to one of the pepper plants and examines it.

88 ELINOR (CONT'D) 88
Hmmm... maybe that's why the plants
are different.
(MORE)

ELINOR (CONT'D)

If a plant liked to drink lots of water, or if it *didn't* like a lot of sun, it wouldn't be very good for them here.

*
*

Grandpa and Grandma look at each other: She's got this. Elinor looks at the plants around here and has an idea.

89 ELINOR (CONT'D) 89
That's it! BaBa, BiBi, I think I figured it out!

Her grandparents walk over to Elinor.

90 ELINOR (CONT'D) 90
The plants we have at home probably wouldn't like it here because it's really sunny and there isn't much water. But I bet the plants here do!

91 GRANDMA 91
That's right, Elinor! The desert gets more sun and less water.

92 GRANDPA 92
So the plants that grow here don't need as much water, and they *like* having a lot of heat and sun! *

93 ELINOR 93
That's... so... INTERESTING!

94 GRANDMA 94
Here, let us show you what we DO grow in our desert garden.

They walk through the garden. As they examine each plant, we get close-ups of the different veggies.

95 GRANDMA (CONT'D) 95
These are peppers... and here are some beans... and this one is called squash.

96 ELINOR 96
Cool...

Suddenly, Elinor realizes something and looks a bit disappointed.

97 GRANDMA 97
What's wrong, Elinor?

98 ELINOR 98

Well, I'm happy that these plants
like to grow here, but... that
means I can't show you how to make
my favorite soup. None of the
veggies in the recipe grow here.

*
*

Her grandparents look at each other.

99 GRANDPA 99
Hmmm, what was the name of the soup again? *

100 ELINOR 100
It's called Backyard Soup.

101	GRANDPA	101	
	Well, Elinor, I think that the		*
	vegetables we have here are		
	different, but the recipe can be		
	just the same: Just use what's in		
	your backyard!		

Elinor brightens up.

102 ELINOR 102
Really? You can make soup out of
these vegetables?

GRANDMA

Why, yes! And it's delicious!

Elinor looks over at the vegetables in the garden, smiling.
Suddenly, she spots some cactuses.

104 ELINOR 104
Even THOSE plants?

105	GRANDPA	105
	Yes! They're called cactuses, and they taste great in a soup!	
	(putting his finger in one of the spines)	
	Er, just be careful when you touch it.	

106 GRANDMA 106
 (poking Grandpa)
 Heh, you're a bit of a prickly pear
 yourself, BaBa.
 (to Elinor)
 And don't forget the most important
 ingredient in any family dish,
 Elinor.

107 ELINOR 107
What's that, BiBi?

Elinor's grandparents give her a big hug.

108 GRANDMA 108
 Lots and LOTS of love.

10. MONTAGE INSIDE/OUTSIDE -- DAY

As Elinor and her grandparents gather the vegetables outside and then prepare the soup in the kitchen, Elinor sings a song that summarizes what we have learned:

109	ELINOR	109
	<i>Plants need water</i>	
	<i>Plants need sun</i>	
	<i>Some like a little</i>	
	<i>Some like a ton!</i>	
	<i>Back at home</i>	
	<i>It's very wet</i>	
	<i>But here the water</i>	
	<i>Is hard to get!</i>	
	<i>Soup at home</i>	
	<i>Has carrots and peas</i>	
	<i>But here the soup</i>	
	<i>Has cactus and beans</i>	
	<i>Plants need water</i>	
	<i>Plants need sun</i>	
	<i>Some like a little</i>	
	<i>Some like a ton!</i>	

11. INT. GRANDPARENT'S KITCHEN - DAY

Everyone is seated at the table for dinner, eating steaming bowls of soup in front of them. A big pot of soup is also on the table.

110	RANGER RABBIT	110
	Wow, this is so tasty, Elinor.	

111 MR. RABBIT 111
It's different from the soup we
made at our house.

112 ELINOR 112
Different places can mean different
plants, and different plants make a
different soup!

Mr. Rabbit finishes his bowl and sighs in satisfaction.
<SFX:SIGH>

<SFX:SIGH>

*
*

113

GRANDPA

113

I told you cactus was delicious.

BiBi pokes BaBa in the belly again, and everyone giggles. Elinor drinks the last of her soup, then takes a piece of paper and starts writing something.

*

114

GRANDMA

114

What are you writing, Elinor?

115

ELINOR

115

I'm making a new recipe. It's called Desert Soup!

116

GRANDMA

116

Great idea!

She hops down from the table and picks up the basket.

117

ELINOR

117

And, I want to get some desert
veggies to take home. I think Ari
is going to love Desert Soup!

118

MR. RABBIT

118

We're making soup for Ari? Hmmm, I think you might need a bigger basket!

They all <SFX: LAUGH>.

END

*