

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]

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

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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.

ARI (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
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

MmmmmmmMMMMM. 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.

Oohhh.

ARI

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!		*
	Elinor hugs her grandmother.		
45	GRANDPA	45	
	Me too!		
	Elinor hugs her grandfather. Mr. Rabbit reminds them that he 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!		
	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?		
48	ELINOR	48	
	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!		
	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.		
51	GRANDPA	51	
	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.		
53	GRANDMA	53	
	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. *

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. If a plant likes to
 drink lots of water, or if it
didn't like a lot of sun, then it
 might not grow very well 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 <i>like</i> 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... (MORE)	

ELINOR (CONT'D)

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 how you make the
soup 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?

103 GRANDMA 103

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> *

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>.		
	SEGMENT 2.		*
	1. EXT PARK -- DAY		*
	Open on SENOR TAPIR, ARI, and OLIVE sitting on a log. ARI spots ELINOR as she runs over to them and waves at her.		* *
119	ARI	119	*
	Hi, Elinor!		*
120	ELINOR	120	*
	Hi--whoops!		*
	ELINOR trips (gently) on a tree root (she doesn't fall). Her curiosity prevails.		* *
121	ELINOR (CONT'D)	121	*
	I've never seen this kind of tree before! How INTERESTING! I wonder what it is?		* * *

122	SENOR TAPIR (chuckling) You remind me of another curious explorer who loved plants more than anything. Her name was Ynes Mexia.	122	* * * * *
	Senor Tapir starts to strum his guitar and sings. We TRANSITION to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing.		* * *
	2. EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL -- DAY		*
	CLOSE UP: on Ynes Mexia (ee-NEZ Meh-HEE-uh) as she studies a plant and writes in her notebook.		* *
123	SENOR TAPIR Ynes Mexia Took every chance To go and explore And look for new plants	123	* * * * *
	ZOOM OUT: to see that the plant she's studying is growing in a wild and dangerous location. (Settings that might work: growing on the bank of a rushing river, or at the top of a waterfall, or on a very steep cliff face.)		* * * *
	One day she heard of A really tall tree She went to find it Out of curiosity		* * * *
	ZOOM IN ON: Mexia's notebook, with a sketch of the legendary Wax Palm growing in the mountains.		* *
	The tallest of palm trees It likes mountain air To find where it grows She had to climb way up there		* * * *
	Mexia and her guides start up the trail, which zig-zags up the mountain.		* *
	Ynes Mexia Took every chance To go and explore And look for new plants!		* * * *
	Time passes and different weather conditions roll through: rain and thunder, gusting winds, intense sun. Mexia leads the group through it all, even when the trail disappears.		* * *
	(MORE)		

SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

Hiking through storms *
And wind and sun *
She got a bit lost *
But still had fun *

Ynes Mexia and her group reach the Wax Palm. It's huge! They *
celebrate, and she sketches it in her notebook. *

"At last" she said *
when she first saw the tree *
Two hundred feet high *
As tall as she could see *

CLOSE UP: on Mexia as an idea occurs to her. She bends down *
(out of frame) and pops back up holding a sprig of wax palm *
seeds (fruit). *

She wanted to have *
this tree back at home *
so she took some seeds *
to grow her own *

ZOOM OUT: The group happily makes their way back down the *
mountain. [chorus] *

Ynes Mexia *
Never missed a chance *
She went and explored *
And found new plants! *

TRANSITION TO: *

3. EXT PARK -- DAY *

Back in the park, SENOR TAPIR looks up from his guitar to see *
ELINOR busily sketching. She holds up her drawing of the *
strange tree she tripped over. The parts are labeled, as in *
Mexia's drawings. *

124 ELINOR 124 *
Look! I'm going to start a notebook *
with pictures of all the new plants *
I can find! *

The children scatter. SENOR TAPIR follows them *

125 SENOR TAPIR 125 *
(chuckling) *
Be careful! No running! *

END *