

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 124 Wind in the Web

By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: Why are spiderwebs full of holes?

Logline: Elinor and her friends volunteer to help Mr. Raccoon sell his tasty treats, and they learn from Nature that wind will push things, but it can't push them as hard if they have holes in them.

Curriculum Goals:

LS5b. Identify the habitats of familiar animals and plants in the environment [Spiders live in spider webs]

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. [They engineer the sign to have wind holes to mimic the spider web].

SEP3b: Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail [They compare the web to the kite and the sign]

SEP7. Engaging in argument from evidence [they use the web and leaves with holes to explain why the sign blew away and how to fix it]

MAINS: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mr. Raccoon

SECONDARIES: Silas, Deputy Mouse

LOCATIONS: Animal Town Centre, Grassy Area in the Middle of Town, Mr. Raccoon's Bakery

PROPS: Leaves, sign, scissors, pretzels, bagels, cheese

OUTLINE: Apr 2, 2019

FIRST DRAFT: April 24, 2019

It's a brisk Fall day, and ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE (carrying her SATCHEL) are happily walking along a leaf-strewn sidewalk near the center of Animal Town (like a very small Main Street, with friendly adults and families walking around and no traffic). A slight wind is blowing through, kicking up an occasional leaf.

The wind gusts, shaking Olive's ears a bit.

A bunch of leaves get blown by the wind, swirling around Ari, who giggles and spins with them.

OLIVE 4
Ooh, so many pretty colors!

5 ELINOR 5
I love the windy feeling on my
face, and smelling the cool fall
air.

6 OLIVE 6
... and the leaves!

7 ARI 7
Wait, did you say that wind is AIR?
The stuff we breathe?

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8                                OLIVE                                8
    Yep!  Wind is just air moving
    around.

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Olive blows air out of her trunk, pushing some leaves around on the ground.

The wind picks up a little. Ari leans into it, trying to enjoy it too.

ARI

9 Let me try. Here it comes!

He lifts his arms slightly and embraces the wind.

10	ARI (CONT'D)	10
	Ooh, that does feel nice!	

He raises his arms and wings to enjoy more of it, and the wind pushes him back a bit.

11 ARI (CONT'D) 11
Whoa.

He leans into it more, but then a big gust blows through.

12 ARI (CONT'D) 12
Whoa! Whoa! Ahh!

Ari is sent flying and flipping backwards, landing on a small pile of leaves.

13 ARI (CONT'D) 13
 (blowing a leaf off his
 head)
 Wow, that wind is pushy!

The kids giggle.

14 ELINOR 14
Here, I'll help you.

Elinor and Olive help him up. At that moment, a small bell rings. It's Mr. Raccoon, coming out of his bakery. Mr. Raccoon has one arm in a sling, and the other arm is trying to hold on to what looks like a medium-size rolled-up tarp and two sticks. He has some difficulty holding the door open and navigating the doorway and holding on to the sign with only one arm.

15	OLIVE	15
	Hello, Mr. Raccoon!	

Mr. Raccoon notices them there.

16 MR. RACCOON 16
Oh, hello, Olive! Hello, Elinor and
Ari! How are you on this fine day?
It's a little bit windy out, isn't
it?

25 ELINOR 25
I love cheese!

26 MR. RACCOON 26
Great, well come by my store any
time and I'll give you all some
free samples.

Mr. Raccoon tries to awkwardly roll up the sign again with only one hand, but struggles to hold on to it.

27 MR. RACCOON (CONT'D) 27
Hm, urm. Oh. Urk.

The kids look at each other and seem to have the same idea.

28 ELINOR 28
Mr. Raccoon, would you like us to
help you?

29 ARI 29
Yeah, we can put the sign up for
you!

30	OLIVE	30
	We love pretzels, bagels and cheese	
	and we want everyone to know about	
	them too!	

31 MR. RACCOON 31
Oh, wow, that's so nice of you,
kids. That would really help me.
Thank you!

32 ELINOR 32
No problem, Mr. Raccoon! We'll put
the sign up and everybody's going
to come try your awesome treats!

The kids help Mr. Raccoon roll up the sign and he hands it to Olive.

[illegible]

Over some short music, the kids run over to the grassy area in the middle of the town center. On the way, Ari jumps/flutter over a bush and Olive skips over some leaves.

2. EXT. GRASSY AREA IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN - DAY

Elinor looks around a little bit and picks a spot.

34 ELINOR 34
I think this is a good place. Let's
put up the sign!

Elinor and Ari unfurl the sign and hold the ends of it, while Olive sets her satchel down and pushes the sticks into the ground to hold it in place.

35 OLIVE 35
There we go!

The kids take a step back and look at their handiwork.

36 ELINOR 36
I think that looks pretty good.

37 ARI 37
It makes me want to eat a bagel
right now!

Ari mimes eating a delicious bagel.

38 OLIVE 38
EVERYTHING makes you want to eat,
Ari.

ARI

No... Some things make me hungry.

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Silas the Cheetah passes by and notices the sign.

SILAS
Oh! What's that?

The kids form a funny tableau to showcase the sign.

41 SILAS (CONT'D) 41
Huh, it looks like Mr. Raccoon made
bagels and pretzels today. Cool.
I'll go check it out!

He walks off towards the bakery. The kids nod and high-five each other.

42 ELINOR 42
Yes, it's working!

At that moment, the wind picks up, and the sign flutters.

43 OLIVE 43
Uh oh, it's getting windy again.

The wind gets stronger, and the sign billows and strains.

44 ARI 44
The wind is getting pushy again!

The kids look worried about the sign, but the wind dies down. Phew! They all sigh in relief. But a moment later, a strong gust blows. The sign flutters and then... it flies out of the ground!

45 Oh no! ELINOR 45

Sign and sticks and all fly off up and away.

46	OLIVE	46
	Follow the sign!	

3. EXT ANIMAL TOWN CENTER -- DAY

The kids go running to find their sign. The sign flutters and flies comically over town residents. At some point, it looks like it's headed straight for Ms. Gee Raffe's head, but she ducks at the last second. The kids follow the sign, but suddenly, it seems to have disappeared.

47	ARI	47
	Where did it go?	

48 OLIVE 48
I don't know!

49 ELINOR 49
I'll look this way!

Elinor heads one way, and Olive and Ari head the other way. Elinor walks down the sidewalk a bit, looking around. The wind blows through again and causes some leaves on the ground the swirl around.

50 ELINOR (CONT'D) 50
Wow, look at how the wind is
pushing the leaves...

But then she notices something curious: some of the leaves don't get pushed by the wind as much. They stay close to the ground and don't move as much.

She takes a closer look. When she looks closer, she notices that those leaves have lots of holes in them
[<https://ziba.photoshelter.com/image/I00000Zh.f3vwZME>].

51 ELINOR (CONT'D) 51
Hmmm . . .

Just then, Ari and Olive come back with the sign.

52 OLIVE 52
We found it, Elinor!

Olive and Ari come back with Deputy Mouse, who has the sign over the front of his face and body (the wind blew the sign into him).

53 DEPUTY MOUSE 53
Ahem.

54 ARI 54
Thanks for catching our sign,
Deputy Mouse!

Ari peels the sign from him.

55 DEPUTY MOUSE 55
<MUMBLES GRUMBLES>

Deputy Mouse walks away.

56 OLIVE 56
Ready? Let's go try putting the
sign up again.

57 ARI 57
Yeah, we want everyone to know
about the bagels and pretzels!

58 ELINOR 58
And cheese! Let's go!

4. EXT. GRASSY AREA IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN - DAY

The kids have the sign rolled up again and are back at their spot.

59 ELINOR 59
I'm so glad we found our sign!

The wind gusts.

60 OLIVE 60
Uh oh, the wind is blowing again.

61 ARI 61
What should we do? The wind might
blow the sign away like before!

The kids brainstorm ideas (possible **THOUGHT BUBBLES?**).

62 OLIVE 62
Maybe we could put some branches in
front of it to block the wind?

63 ELINOR 63
Hmmm, but then nobody will be able
to see the sign.

64 ARI 64
What if we use some rocks to hold
it down?

65 OLIVE 65
Good idea, but then we would have
to lay it down flat and nobody
would see it.

66 ARI 66
Hmm, this is tricky!

The kids sit down, unsure what to do. Olive is scratching her
head with her trunk thinking.

Suddenly, something catches Elinor's eye: a spider hanging
from a thread down from the branch of a nearby bush.

67 ELINOR 67
Oooh, a spider!

The spider climbs up and Elinor follows it to a web stretched
across two bushes.

68 ELINOR (CONT'D) 68
There's its web! Olive, Ari, come
look!

The wind gusts gently, stirring some leaves, but not the web.

69 OLIVE 69
It's a spider's web! Ohh, it's so
pretty.

The wind picks up again, blowing harder, swirling leaves all
around the kids, but the spiders' web only shakes a bit.

70 ARI 70
Whoa, here comes that pushy wind
again.

71 ELINOR 71
Did you see that? The wind pushed
the leaves pretty hard.

72 ARI 72
And me too!

73 ELINOR 73
BUT the spider web didn't get
pushed as much.

OLIVE

That's right, I noticed that too!

75 ELINOR 75
 Hmm, that is SO INTERESTING.

76 OLIVE 76
Why didn't the web get pushed?

77 ELINOR 77
I think we need MORE OBSERVATIONS!
Let's compare the web to things
that get pushed by the wind.

78	OLIVE	78
	I'll make a list!	

Olive gets her note-pad and crayon from her satchel. She makes a chart with two columns: one for pushed (she draws swirly wind, or just a check like in Velcro episode) and one for not pushed (swirly wind crossed out, or an X).

79 ELINOR 79
OK, the sign got pushed.

Olive draws it on the left-hand-side.

ARI

The spider's web DIDN'T get pushed.

Olive draws it on the right-hand side.

81 OLIVE 81
Good. What else?

82 ARI 82
Well, leaves get pushed.

83		OLIVE	83
	Right.		

Olive draws a leaf in the "pushed column. Then Elinor remembers her earlier observation.

84 ELINOR 84
Leaves with holes DON'T get pushed!
I saw them earlier.
(MORE)

ELINOR (CONT'D)

Leaves that had holes in them didn't get pushed by the wind as much as the other leaves.

Olive draws leaves with holes on the right-hand side.

85 OLIVE 85
 Hmm, I feel like we're missing one
 more thing.

The wind picks up a little and Ari gets pushed back a bit.

86 ELINOR 86
And Ari! Ari and his wings got
pushed by the wind a lot.

Olive draws a stick figure Ari. She pauses and, as a flourish, she doodles a little bagel in his hands.

87 ARI 87
Aww, is that a bagel? Nice!

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>, then look at the list they made.

88	OLIVE	88
	Ok, let's see... What do these things have that helps them not get pushed by the wind?	

89 ELINOR 89
 <GASP!> I see it! Or... it's more
 like I don't see it!

ARI

Uh... what do you mean, Elinor?

91 ELINOR 91
I mean the holes! The web and the
leaves both have holes in them.

ARI

92 Oh, I get it.

92

93 OLIVE 93

You're right, Elinor! The web and the leaves have holes in them, but the sign and Ari's wings don't. Things with holes don't get pushed by the wind as much.

94 ARI 94
We figured it out!

This gives Elinor an idea.

95 ELINOR 95
Hmmm... And that gives me the best
idea for our sign!

Elinor leads them back to the sign.

96 ELINOR (CONT'D) 96
Olive? Do you have scissors in
your bag?

97	OLIVE	97
	Sure do! My favourite safe craft	
	scissors!	

Olive takes out some kid-friendly rounded scissors and hands one to Elinor and one to Ari.

98 ELINOR 98
Let's fix this sign!

The kids get to work. As they work, they sing a song:

99 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 99

Woosh! Woosh!
The wind goes woosh!
Woosh! Woosh!
The wind can push!

Ari and the sign
Both got pushed
The wind blew them
Woosh woosh woosh!

The spiders' web
And leaves with holes
They barely move
When the wind blows

If we add some holes
Here and there
Our sign won't fly
Off anywhere

Woosh! Woosh!
The wind goes woosh!
Woosh! Woosh!
The wind can push!

At the end of the song, the kids stand in front of their sign, admiring their work. The camera reveals where they put the holes: in the holes of the swiss soy cheese, the holes of the bagels, and the holes of the pretzels (as well as a few decorative holes around the edges).

100 OLIVE 100
Our holes are in the perfect place!
Right in the middle of the
pretzels!

101 ARI 101
And the bagels! And the cheese!!
Mmmm, cheese.
(the wind starts to blow)
Here comes the wind. Do you think
it's gonna work?

A big gust comes through.

102 ELINOR 102
Come on sign! Come on holes!

The sign shakes a bit but doesn't blow away.

103 OLIVE 103
Yay! It worked!

104 ARI 104
We did it!

Some other animals walk by and check out the sign. They seem
interested and head towards the bakery.

4. INT. MR. RACCOON'S BAKERY -- DAY

A cross fade later, the kids are now in Mr. Raccoon's bakery.
Customers are walking in from the windy outside. Mr. Raccoon,
still wearing his arm in a sling, hands out pretzels and
bagels and wrapped up wedges of cheese.

105 MR. RACCOON 105
Everybody in town wants to be part
of pretzel and bagel day! And they
all say it's because they saw the
sign. Well done, kids!

106 ELINOR 106
Well, we almost couldn't put the
sign up, because it was sooo windy.

107 ARI 107
One time, the wind even blew the
sign away!

108	OLIVE	108
	But then we saw some leaves and a spider's web, and figured out that if we put holes in the sign, the wind won't push it as much.	

109 MR. RACCOON 109
Ah, that's very clever, Olive. The
holes probably help the wind get
through and not push the sign.

He holds up a pretzel and blows through it at Olive.

110 ELINOR 110
I think you're right, Mr. Raccoon.

Elinor holds up a bagel and looks through it.

111 ELINOR (CONT'D) 111
That makes a "hole" lot of sense!

She also blows through the bagel hole at Olive. Olive and Mr. Raccoon suppress a giggle. Ari, who's been munching on a bagel, takes a beat to get the joke.

112	ARI	112
	Oh, I get it! You said, "hole"...	

Everyone starts laughing. An IRIS forms around each of the characters' faces and holds for a beat before we...

END