

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]

LINE COUNT: 113

MAINS: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mr. Raccoon

SECONDARIES: Silas

INCIDENTAL: (no lines) 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

SECOND DRAFT: May 22, 2019

POLISH DRAFT: June 3, 2019

1. EXT ANIMAL TOWN CENTER -- DAY

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.

1 OLIVE 1
It's kind of windy today. *

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

2 ELINOR 2
I LOVE days like this. *

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

ARI

Whoa, there are leaves blowing everywhere.

4 OLIVE 4 *

Ooh, so many pretty colors.

Elinor leans into the wind and smiles.

5 ELINOR 5
I love feeling the wind on my face. *
The cool fall air is so nice. *

A leaf blows right onto Olive's trunk.

6 OLIVE 6 *

... and don't forget the leaves.

They giggle.

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

He blows some air out of his mouth.

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

Olive blows air out of her trunk, pushing some leaves around on the ground. Ari is impressed <SFX: Woah!> *

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

9	ARI	9	
	Here it comes! I'm going to try to catch some wind!		* *

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.		*

Elinor runs around and holds the door open for Mr. Raccoon. *

16	ELINOR	16	
	Here you go, Mr. Raccoon.		* *

17	MR. RACCOON Oh, thank you, Elinor! Hello, Olive and Ari! How are you on this fine day?	17	* * *
18	ARI We are enjoying the wind. What happened to your arm?	18	* * *
19	MR. RACCOON Unfortunately, I sprained my arm mixing ingredients last night, and now I have to let it rest. My other arm is doing twice the work!	19	* * * *
20	ARI (pointing to the rolled up tarp) What's that, Mr. Raccoon? Mr. Raccoon looks down at the tarp.	20	
21	MR. RACCOON This? Oh, today is a very special day, kids. I baked some delicious treats: pretzels and bagels. I call it, "Pretzel and Bagel Day."	21	*
22	OLIVE Ooh, I LOVE pretzels.	22	*
23	ARI And I love bagels! They're my favorite baked goodie. (thinks about it) Actually, most baked goodies are my favorite, but I especially like bagels.	23	
24	MR. RACCOON Haha, well, I like them too, Ari. And I'd like everyone to come try them, so I'm going to put up this sign over there by the town center. With the help of one of the kids, Mr. Raccoon unfurls the sign for them, and we see that it has drawings of bagels, pretzels, some swiss soy cheese and a big arrow pointing in one direction.	24	*
25	MR. RACCOON (CONT'D) Oh, I also have some special swiss soy cheese that I want everyone to try.	25	

26 ELINOR 26
I love cheese! *

27 MR. RACCOON 27
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.

28 MR. RACCOON (CONT'D) 28
Hm, urm. Oh. Urk.

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

29 ELINOR 29
Mr. Raccoon, can we help you? *

30 ARI 30
Yeah, we can put the sign up for
you. *

31 OLIVE 31
We love pretzels, bagels and cheese
and we want everyone to know about
them too!

32 MR. RACCOON 32
Oh, wow, that's so nice of you,
kids. That would really help me.
Thank you. *

33 ELINOR 33
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.

34 ARI 34
Let's go! *

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.

35	ELINOR	35	
	I think this is a good place. Let's put up the sign.		*
	Olive is holding the sign. Elinor takes one end to unfurl the sign, while Ari pushes the sticks into the ground to hold it in place.		* *
36	ARI	36	*
	There we go.		*
	The kids take a step back and look at their handiwork.		
37	ELINOR	37	
	I think that looks pretty good.		
38	ARI	38	
	It makes me hungry for a bagel right now.		* *
	Ari mimes eating a delicious bagel.		
39	OLIVE	39	
	EVERYTHING makes you hungry, Ari.		*
40	ARI	40	
	No... Some things also make me thirsty.		* *
	The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Silas the Cheetah passes by and notices the sign.		
41	SILAS	41	
	Oh! What's that?		
	The kids form a funny tableau to showcase the sign.		
42	SILAS (CONT'D)	42	
	Oh, is Mr. Raccoon making bagels and pretzels today? Awesome. I'll go check it out,		* * *
	He speeds off towards the bakery. The kids nod and high-five each other.		*
43	ELINOR	43	
	Yes, the sign is working!		*
	At that moment, the wind picks up, and the sign flutters.		
44	OLIVE	44	
	Uh oh, it's getting windy again.		
	The wind gets stronger, and the sign billows and strains.		

45	ARI	45	
	Yeah, and the wind is pushing the		*
	sign!		*

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!

46 Oh no! ELINOR 46

Sign and sticks and all fly off up and away.

47 OLIVE 47
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, but it flies up, up, and over her head at the last second. The kids follow the sign, but suddenly, it seems to have disappeared.

48	ARI	48
	Where did it go?	

49 OLIVE 49
I don't know. *

50 ELINOR 50
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 to swirl around. *

51 ELINOR (CONT'D) 51
Wow, look at how the wind is
pushing the leaves... *

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). <SFX: WALLA AHEM>

53	ARI	53	
	Thanks for catching our sign, Deputy Mouse!		
	Ari peels the sign from him. <SFX: WALLA GRUMBLE> Deputy Mouse walks away.		*
54	OLIVE	54	
	Ready? Let's go put the sign up again.		*
55	ARI	55	
	Yeah, we want everyone to know about the bagels and pretzels.		*
56	ELINOR	56	
	And cheese!		*

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

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

57	ELINOR	57	
	I'm so glad we found Mr. Raccoon's sign.		* *
	The wind gusts.		
58	OLIVE	58	
	Uh oh, the wind is blowing again.		
59	ARI	59	
	What should we do? The wind might blow the sign away like before.		*
	The kids brainstorm ideas (we see THOUGHT BUBBLES).		*
60	OLIVE	60	
	Maybe we could put some branches in front of it to block the wind?		
61	ELINOR	61	
	Hmmm, but then nobody will be able to see the sign.		
62	ARI	62	
	What if we use some rocks to hold it down?		

63	OLIVE	63	
	Good idea, but then we would have to lay it down flat and nobody would see it.		
64	ARI	64	*
	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.			
65	ELINOR	65	*
	Oooh, a spider.		
The spider climbs up and Elinor follows it to a web stretched across two bushes.			
66	ELINOR (CONT'D)	66	*
	There's its web. Olive, Ari, come look.		*
The wind gusts gently, stirring some leaves, but not the web.			
67	OLIVE	67	*
	I love spider webs. They're SO cool.		*
The wind picks up again, blowing harder, swirling leaves all around the kids, but the spider web only shakes a bit.			
68	ARI	68	
	Whoa, here comes that pushy wind again.		
69	ELINOR	69	
	Did you see that? The wind pushed the leaves pretty hard.		
70	ARI	70	*
	And me too.		
71	ELINOR	71	*
	BUT the spider web didn't get pushed as much. It hardly moved.		
72	OLIVE	72	
	That's right, I noticed that too!		
The wind blows through again, repeating the effect.			

73	ARI	73	*
	Look, there it is again. The wind's		*
	pushing the leaves more than its		*
	pushing the web.		*
74	ELINOR	74	
	Hmm, that is SO INTERESTING.		
75	OLIVE	75	*
	Why doesn't the web get pushed very		*
	much?		
76	ELINOR	76	*
	I don't know... Mr. Raccoon's sign		*
	gets pushed by the wind a lot, and		*
	the leaves get pushed a lot, but		*
	the spider web doesn't. I think we		*
	need MORE OBSERVATIONS!		
77	OLIVE	77	*
	Good idea. I'll write it down.		
	Olive gets her note-pad and crayon from her satchel. Holding		*
	the crayon with her trunk, she makes a chart with two		*
	columns: one for pushed (check mark) and one for not pushed		*
	(X).		*
78	OLIVE (CONT'D)	78	*
	One side for pushed a lot and one		*
	side for NOT pushed a lot.		*
79	ELINOR	79	*
	OK, the sign got pushed a lot.		
	Olive draws a kid doodle version of the sign on the left-hand-		*
	side of the page.		*
80	ARI	80	*
	The spider web DIDN'T get pushed as		*
	much.		
	Olive draws it on the right-hand side.		
81	OLIVE	81	
	Good. What else?		
82	ARI	82	*
	Well, leaves get pushed a lot.		
83	OLIVE	83	
	Right.		
	Olive draws a leaf in the "pushed column."		*

84	OLIVE (CONT'D)	84	
	Hmm, I feel like we're missing one more thing.		
	The wind picks up a little and Ari gets pushed back a bit.		
85	ELINOR	85	
	And Ari! Ari got pushed a lot when he had his wings open.		* *
	Olive draws a stick figure Ari. She pauses and, as a flourish, she doodles a little bagel in his hands.		
86	ARI	86	
	Aww, is that a bagel? Nice!		
	The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>, then look at the list they made.		
87	OLIVE	87	
	Ok, let's see... What's different about the things that get pushed by the wind and the spider web?		* * *
	The kids think for a beat.		
88	ELINOR	88	
	<GASP!> I have an idea! Maybe it's about what's MISSING.		* *
89	ARI	89	
	Uh... what do you mean, Elinor?		
90	ELINOR	90	
	I mean the holes! The web has holes in it.		* *
91	ARI	91	
	Oh, I get it.		
92	OLIVE	92	
	You're right, Elinor! The web has holes in it, but the sign and the leaves and Ari's wings don't. Maybe things with holes don't get pushed by the wind as much.		* * * *
93	ARI	93	
	That makes sense. The wind goes right through the holes instead of pushing on it.		* * *
	This gives Elinor an idea.		

94	ELINOR	94	
	Hmmm... And that gives me the best idea for our sign!		
	Elinor leads them back to the sign.		
95	ELINOR (CONT'D)	95	
	Olive? Do you have scissors in your bag?		*
96	OLIVE	96	
	Sure do!		*
	Olive takes out some kid-friendly rounded scissors and hands one to Elinor and one to Ari.		
97	ELINOR	97	
	Let's fix this sign!		*
	The kids get to work. As they work, they sing a song:		
98	ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE	98	
	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 spider web Has lots of holes It barely moves 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).		

99 OLIVE 99
Our holes are in the perfect place.
Right in the middle of the
pretzels! *

100 ARI 100
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.

101 ELINOR 101
Come on sign! Come on holes!

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

102 OLIVE 102
Yay! It worked! The wind pushed the
sign a little bit, but it didn't
blow away! *
*
*

103 ARI 103
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. *

104 MR. RACCOON 104
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. *
*

105 ELINOR 105
Well, we almost couldn't put the
sign up, because it was sooo windy.

106 ARI 106
One time, the wind even blew the
sign away! *

107 OLIVE 107 *

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

108 MR. RACCOON 108 *

Ah, that's very clever, Olive. The
holes help the wind get through and
not push against the sign as much. *

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

109 ELINOR 109 *

I think you're right, Mr. Raccoon.

Elinor holds up a bagel and looks through it. She also blows
through the bagel hole at Olive, who <SFX: GIGGLES>. Ari has
been munching on a bagel. He swallows his bite and says... *

110 ARI 110 *

Yup, that makes a "hole" lot of
sense! Get it? Hole? *

111 OLIVE 111 *

Oh, Ari... *

Everyone starts <SFX: LAUGHING>. An IRIS forms around each of
the characters' faces and holds for a beat before we... *

FADE OUT. *

SEGMENT 2. *

1. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY *

ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE are sitting down for story time. MZ.
MOLE settles down in front of them. We can see the wind
blowing (leaves etc.) outside the window. <SFX: WIND BLOWING> *

112 OLIVE 112 *

It's so windy today, Mz. Mole! *

113 MZ. MOLE 113 *

It sure is, Olive. While I was
walking here today, my favorite hat
blew away! *

114 ELINOR 114 *

Oh no! The wind can be so PUSHY! *

115	MZ. MOLE	115	*
	Yes, but did you know that some		*
	critters NEED a push from the wind?		*
	Like these spiders!		*
	(she holds up the spider		*
	book)		*
	Let's take a look...		*
	Mz. Mole opens the book.		*
	2. EXT OUTSIDE (BOOK) -- DAY		*
	Close up on a small cotton ball-like spider egg sac stuck to		*
	a dead leaf on the forest floor.		*
116	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	116	*
	This is a nest for baby spiders.		*
	Maybe if we're very quiet, a baby		*
	will come out.		*
	A cute baby spider crawls out of the egg sac, peering around.		*
	<SFX: KID WALLA AWWWW>		*
117	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	117	*
	Ha ha! Welcome to the world, little		*
	one!		*
	The spiderling waves "hello" with a leg.		*
118	ELINOR (O.S.)	118	*
	Hello little spider.		*
119	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	119	*
	But this baby isn't alone. It has		*
	brothers and sisters. LOTS of		*
	brothers and sisters.		*
	Pull back. There are dozens or hundreds of baby spiders		*
	crowded on the same leaf. They all wave "hello" with a leg,		*
	and the first baby spider jumps in surprise. <SFX: KID WALLA		*
	WHOOOA>		*
120	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	120	*
	So our spider needs to go somewhere		*
	less crowded where it'll have		*
	enough space and lots of food!		*
	The spider walks away from the dead leaf and climbs up a very		*
	tall blade of grass.		*
121	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	121	*
	It climbs somewhere high and sticks		*
	out a leg to feel the wind.		*

The spider sticks out a leg to test the air. This is a
somewhat windy day, but not a full gale. *

122 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 122 *
The spider makes some silk
threads... *

The spider extrudes a bunch of separate, long silk threads
from its abdomen. *

123 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 123 *
And WHOOSH, the wind carries it
into the sky! *

The spider blows aloft over the trees. <SFX: KID WALLA
WHOOOOAA> *

BACK ON: The classroom. *

124 ELINOR 124 *
Mz. Mole, where's our baby spider
going? *

125 MZ. MOLE 125 *
Why, anywhere the wind takes it! *

BACK ON: The book, our spider is now joined by his brothers
and sisters in the background. *

126 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 126 *
Most spiders sail for a short time,
but some sail for a long time. They
can fly as high as a mountain... *

BOOK PAGES FLIP to show the spiders bob over a mountain, some
spiders land. *

127 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 127 *
Or out to sea. *

BOOK PAGES FLIP The spiders fly over the ocean, our spider
takes the lead. *

128 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 128 *
But at last... It lands. *

BOOK PAGES FLIP The wind gently blows the spider to that
forest path from the Wind In The Web episode. *

129 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 129 *
Good job, spider. This looks like a
nice place for a new home! *

The spider looks around at the landscape. It jumps up and
down happily. *

BACK ON: Mz. Mole. She closes the book. *

130 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 130 *
And that's the end of our story *
about spiders who ride the wind. *

131 ELINOR 131 *
Hmm. I guess the wind's pushiness *
can be helpful... *

Suddenly the <SFX: WIND> blows open the door. Mz. Mole's hat
blows in and lands smack on her face. *

132 MZ. MOLE 132 *
(muffled) Ah, THERE'S my hat. Thank *
you, wind. *

<SFX: KID GIGGLE> *

THE END. *

*