

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 125A To Bee or Not to Bee

By: Michael Foulke

Elinor's Question: Why do bees want to sting me?

Logline: While on a picnic, Elinor tries to help her friend Koa get over his fear of bees.

Curriculum Goals:

LS2. Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs, and that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow: a. Identify body parts of animals and their function

LS8: Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be the same or different: a. Observe and describe similarities and differences across different types of plants and animals

SEP4: Analyzing and interpreting data a. Collect, describe, and record observations in greater detail and in various ways b. Use the 5 senses and simple tools to gather and record data c. Record observations to describe patterns and/or relationships in the natural and designed world(s) 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.

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Koa

LOCATIONS: Forest

PROPS: Magnifying Glass, Picnic Basket, Picnic Blanket, Food

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ELINOR, OLIVE, KOA and ARI walk through the forest on a beautiful spring day with the flowers blooming everywhere. Elinor and Ari carry a picnic basket and a picnic blanket as they look on, hopeful.

We then see OLIVE sitting on the ground, testing it out.

Koa points O.S. and the kids turn to see a beautiful shady spot in the grass surrounded by flowers.

9	OLIVE	9
	Look at all the nice flowers. That's a perfect spot for a picnic!	
10	ELINOR	10
	Koa, you're really good at finding picnic spots.	
11	KOA	11
	(matter-of-fact) Totally.	
12	ARI	12
	Alright! I'm hungry! Let's start this picnic!	

Ari unfolds the blanket and whips it through the air,
covering the screen as we use the blanket to:

WIPE TO:

2. EXT. FIELD -- DAY

The kids are now enjoying their picnic and the yummy snacks
they brought. Just as Koa takes a big bite from his honey and
jam sandwich, Elinor asks:

13	ELINOR	13
	So what do you think of the picnic, Koa?	

Koa responds, but his mouth is full and Elinor and Olive have
no idea what he's saying. <SFX: UNINTELLIGIBLE WALLA>

Suddenly, Ari pops into frame.

14	ARI	14
	He said he loves it. (off their look, shrugs) I speak chewing.	

Koa continues to speak and Ari acts as his interpreter. <SFX:
UNINTELLIGIBLE WALLA>

15	ARI (CONT'D)	15
	And he also loves his sandwich because it tastes...	

Koa then finishes up his bite with a <GULP> and talks.

16	KOA	16
	Delicious!	

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. As Elinor and Olive talk, a few honeybees start to fly around Koa, which makes him nervous <SFX: UH OH>. Koa waves his arm at the bees, then quickly gets up.

17 ELINOR 17
That's great, Koa.

18 OLIVE 18
It looks like our picnic is a--

Suddenly, Koa wedges himself right in between Olive and Elinor, who were seated close to one another, squishing them.

OLIVE (CONT'D)

...Success? Are you okay, Koa?

20 KOA 20
Yeah, totally. I'm just trying to
find a comfy spot on the blanket.

As Elinor speaks, the honeybees come back and SFX: BUZZ around Koa, who gets nervous again and swings his arm at the bees.

21 ELINOR 21
Aww, okay. I'll move over.

Koa once again gets up and moves away quickly, still swinging his arm. Elinor and Olive just look at each other, confused.

The next few beats are silent, except for the SFX: BUZZ of the bees as the kids follow Koa around the blanket with their eyes as he gets up, moves, sits down, then immediately repeats that action several times as the bees chase him.

All the while, Elinor, Olive and Ari follow his movements, their heads moving side to side.

22 OLIVE 22

Uh, Koa, are you sure you're okay?

23 KOA 23
Oh, yeah. I'm just, you know, still
trying to get comfy.

Koa looks around and sees no bees, <SFX: SIGHING> in relief.

24 KOA (CONT'D) 24
Ah, that's better.

Suddenly, a bee lands on Koa's arm and he FREAKS OUT, jumping up and swatting at the bee! <SFX: ALARMED WALLA WAAAH>

25 ELINOR 25
Koa. It's okay. It's just a...

26 KOA 26
Bee! Bee! Bee!

Koa runs around the blanket, waving his arms like crazy at the bees, who then in turn start to SFX: BUZZ around all the kids.

27 ARI 27
Now they're buzzing around me!

28 OLIVE 28
Me too!

29 ARI 29
Why are the bees being so... buzzy?

By now, all of the kids have gotten up off the blanket.

30 ELINOR 30
I don't know. Let's move our blanket to a new spot!

31 KOA 31
Good idea!

The kids runs through screen, carrying the picnic basket and food and we follow them out.

DISSOLVE TO:

3. EXT. FOREST -- DAY

The kids are once again enjoying their snacks under a shady tree as a now-relaxed Koa pops another big bite of his sandwich.

32 ARI 32
Ahh... This is better. No bees here.

33 KOA 33
(munching)
Mm-hmmm.

34 OLIVE 34
I wonder why those bees started to buzz around us so much?

35 ELINOR 35
Yeah, bees don't usually bother us
like that.

Koa gets very animated at that question, but once again, his
mouth is full and his words are <SFX: UNINTELLIGIBLE WALLA>.
Elinor and Olive look to Ari, who snaps into action.

36 ARI 36
Oh. He says bees make him nervous.

37 ELINOR 37
But... bees are really good for
nature. They pollinate all these
nice flowers.

38 OLIVE 38
And make yummy honey.

Koa says something else <SFX: UNINTELLIGIBLE WALLA>

39 ARE 39
He said... 'but they also sting!'

40 OLIVE 40
That's true.

Koa chews and finally swallows <SFX: GULP!>.

41 KOA 41
I don't want to get stung. Bee
stings... *sting!*

He looks to the sides nervously.

42 ARI 42
Oh, that's why they're called bee
stings. They sting.

43 ELINOR 43
I know my cousin gets really sick
if he gets stung by a bee. He has
to carry around special medicine.

44 OLIVE 44
He's probably allergic to them. Are
you allergic to bees, Koa?

Koa finishes looking around.

45 KOA 45
Uh... no. I'm not allergic. I just--

Suddenly, a bee SFX: BUZZES around Koa, who waves an arm at it.

46 KOA (CONT'D) 46
I just don't like--

Another bee joins the first bee and Koa starts to swing both his arms at them. As his swings become more frantic, so does the SFX: BUZZING of the bees.

47 ARI 47
Uh oh.

Finally, a third bee joins the others and they all <SFX: BUZZ> around Koa.

48 KOA 48
--BEES!!!

As Koa yells and swats his arms, several more bees come and buzz around the other kids, causing them to get up and move.

49 ARI 49
Yikes! Let's take this picnic to go!

Ari puts the sandwich in his mouth and grabs the picnic blanket. The kids grab what they can and run off. They end up behind a nearby clearing. Once the bees have dissipated, they look back at their abandoned picnic site.

50 ARI (CONT'D) 50
The bees got all buzzy on us again.

51 ELINOR 51
Yeah, I wonder what happened?

52 KOA 52
I hope they're not in the mood for stinging.

53 OLIVE 53
The bees never buzzed like that before.

Elinor watches as the bees fly up above their picnic site, near the tree branches.

54 ELINOR 54
That's true. They usually don't bother us. C'mon, we need more observations.

Elinor scans over to their first picnic spot. She notices the flowers and sees some bees landing on them.

62 ELINOR (CONT'D) 62
Look! Our first picnic spot was
near all those flowers.

63 ARI 63
Oh yeah, bees love flowers. They
like to drink that sweet, sweet
nectar that's inside the flowers.

64 OLIVE 64
Ohhh, that's why the bees were
there. But... why were they buzzing
around us so much today? We're not
flowers.

65 ARI 65
My mom says I get a little too
excited if I drink too much juice.
So, maybe the bees drank too much
nectar.

66 OLIVE 66
Or maybe they liked the smell of
the honey and jam sandwiches.

67 ELINOR 67
Maybe... Let's go take a closer
look at the bees. Although we have
to be careful.
(then, calling out)
Koa, do you want to come?

Koa's head peeks out from the bush far away.

68 KOA 68
(yelling)
No, I'm cool right here, thanks.

69 OLIVE 69
(to Elinor and Ari)
Uh-oh. If we don't figure out
what's going on with these bees,
Koa may never come to a picnic with
us again.

Another bee SFX: BUZZES by the kids and they run after it.

70 ELINOR 70
Then let's get observing.

5. EXT. FIELD OF FLOWERS - DAY

ECU on a beautiful flower as a bee lands on it. As we pull back, we see a GIANT EYEBALL watching the bee. As we pull out even further, we see it's Elinor's eye, made bigger by her magnifying glass, which she uses to watch the bee.

As the kids back away, we see several more bees flying around the flowers as well, going to and fro.

71 ELINOR (O.S.) 71
(whispers)
The bee seems much less buzzy now.

We then see Elinor and Olive laying down on their stomachs in a field of beautiful flowers, looking at the bee, as they
<WHISPER>.

72 OLIVE 72
It just looks like a normal bee
doing... bee stuff.

73 ELINOR 73
Yeah! This bee doesn't seem to want
to sting us at all. That is SO
interesting!

74 OLIVE 74
Maybe there's something about this
in my nature book.

Olive takes out her book and finds the section on bees. There is a picture of a bee buzzing around looking nervous.

75 OLIVE (CONT'D) 75
It says here that honeybees usually
only sting when they feel scared.

Olive then flips the page and sees a picture of a bee not looking good after it has stung something.

76 OLIVE (CONT'D) 76
Ohhh... and it says that stinging
actually hurts the bees more than
it hurts us, so they only do it
when they feel they have no other
choice.

Elinor then goes back to observing the bee in her magnifying glass when suddenly, an excited Ari jumps into frame, looming big and tall over Elinor, Olive and the Bee like a giant monster.

84 ELINOR 84
And it will, if you stay calm. Just
watch.

Koa finally stops and, a beat later, the bee stops flying so
frantically and eventually BUZZES away, no harm done.

85 ELINOR (CONT'D) 85
See? Everything's fine.

86 OLIVE 86
Wow! Elinor, how did you figure
that out?

Elinor stands up triumphantly.

87 ELINOR 87
I just tried to think like a bee.

Suddenly, a thought bubble appears above Elinor, putting a
visual to her explanation.

88 ELINOR (CONT'D) 88
At our picnic, the bees were just
flying around like normal until Koa
started waving his arms at them.
After that...

89 ARI 89
They started to buzz at us.

The thought bubble continues.

90 ELINOR 90
That's right. And that's what
happened just now. That bee on the
flower was calm...

91 OLIVE 91
(getting it)
Until Koa started waving his arms
at it. Then it started buzzing at
him.

The thought bubble pops as we're back on just the kids.

92 KOA 92
Totally! Because bees want to sting
me!

93 ELINOR 93
Yes, but only because they're
afraid of you.

94 KOA 94
They're afraid of me? Why? I don't
sting. They sting!

95 ELINOR 95
You don't sting, but bees are
really tiny and to them, you're
like a super giant monster!

Getting it, Ari starts to impersonate a monster again,
stomping around.

96 ARI 96
Just like me! Rarr!
(off Koa's confused look)
You had to be there.

97 OLIVE 97
You're right, Elinor. Honeybees
only sting animals when they feel
scared.

98 ELINOR 98
And unless you're allergic, the
sting hurts the bees more than it
hurts us!

99 KOA 99
Oh, I didn't know bees were scared
of me...

Suddenly, Koa looks off at something in the distance. As we
pull back, we see he's staring at a bee on a nearby flower.
He then approaches the bee.

We go close as Koa's (comparatively) huge head enters frame
next to a tiny bee on a flower. At this point, they're both
calm.

100 KOA (CONT'D) 100
I'm sorry for scaring you, little
bee bud. I didn't know waving my
arm made you afraid. I totally get
it now.

Suddenly, the bee <SFX: BUZZES> off the flower... and right
onto Koa's nose! The kids all <SFX: GASP>, but this time, Koa
remains calm.

101 KOA (CONT'D) 101
Whoa, I got a bee... on my nose...

102 ELINOR 102
Remember, bees don't want to sting
you unless you scare them.

103 KOA 103
(deep breath)
Right, so I'm just gonna... chill?
I guess?

The kids all watch with baited breath as the bees walks
around a bit, checking out Koa, then just BUZZES away with no
sting. As the bees flies off, Koa exhales in relief.

104 KOA (CONT'D) 104
Phew!

105 ELINOR 105
Koa, that was great. You kept calm
and the bee left you alone.

106 ARI 106
And the most important thing is,
you didn't get scared.

107 KOA 107
No, I was super scared, but I
stayed chill because I didn't want
to scare the bee!

108 OLIVE 108
Now that's what I call BEE-ing
cool. Get it? Bee-ing?

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE> as music rises and they begin to sing.

109 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 109
*ELINOR: Sometimes bees can give you
a sting, Ouch!
And that is not a very fun thing,
No it's not, nuh-uh.
But just think like a bee
They feel tiny next to you and me.*

*OLIVE: Bees do lots of good, Like
pollinating flowers.*

*ARI: And make honey, which takes
hours and hours!*

*ELINOR
Sometimes bees can give you a
sting, ouch!
And that is not a very fun thing,
no it's not, nuh-uh.
(MORE)*

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI (CONT'D)

But just think like a bee
They feel tiny next to you and me.

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI:
We can all live together
If we remember just one thing.
Think about how others must feel
And you might not get a sting.
Ouch!

As the music fades and the song ends, we:

CUT TO:

6. EXT. FOREST -- DAY

The kids are once again on their picnic blanket, finishing up their lunch.

110 ELINOR 110
Now this is what I call a picnic.

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111             ARI 111
111             Yea, finally!
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Ari finally gets to finish his sandwich and looks very happy
<SFX: MMM MUNCH>.

112 KOA 112

Yeah, thanks everybody. Not just
for the tasty honey and jam
sandwich, but also for helping me
not be scared of...

Koa takes a bite out of his sandwich, munches, and the last word comes out <SFX: MUMBLED>. Ari chimes in.

113 ARI 113
He said, 'Bees.'

114 ELINOR 114
I think we got that one, Ari!

The kids <SFX: LAUGH> as they continue to enjoy their picnic. A bee comes flying in and the kids just smile at it. After a beat, the bee takes off and the kids follow it around and up as it flies into the trees and sky, and we:

Segment 2.

1. EXT SCHOOLYARD -- DAY

It's recess. MZ MOLE (carrying a cloth bag), ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE are in the schoolyard looking at some beautiful planted flowers. Bumblebees are nectaring on the flowers. See photos of *Bombus impatiens*: <https://bugguide.net/node/view/56797>

115 MZ. MOLE 115
I'm so glad I planted these flowers
here. The bees just love them.

116 ELINOR 116
(amazed) There are so many bees!

CUT TO on the bees. One of them is a bee-mimicking flower fly (eg. *Mallota posticata*). Zoom in on the flower fly. See photos here: <https://bugguide.net/node/view/55258>

117 ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D) 117
Hey. That bee looks different from
the others.

118 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 118
Great observation, Elinor! That one
isn't a bee at all. It's...

BACK ON Mz. Mole and the kids.

119 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 119
(with conspiratorial excitement)
... actually PRETENDING to be a
bee.

<SFX: KID WALLA GASP>

120 OLIVE 120
If it's not really a bee, then what
is it?

121 MZ. MOLE 121
I've got a book that'll explain
everything.

Mz. Mole goes and sits on a stump (or chair, whatever works) and pulls a book out of her bag. The kids sit down in front of her. Mz. Mole opens the book to a page showing a bumblebee perched on a flower and a flower fly perched on another flower.

122 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 122
That insect you saw is actually a
kind of fly. It's called a flower
fly because it hangs out on
flowers.

3. EXT OUTSIDE (BOOK) -- DAY

Close up on the book, with the bee and the flower fly.

123 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 123
See, this is a bee.

The bee shimmies.

124 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 124
And this is a flower fly.

The fly shimmies.

125 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 125
And they look a lot alike. They
both have see-through wings.

Two arrows appear that point to the wings. Both insects shake their wings.

126 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 126
They both have beautiful yellow and
black stripes.

Arrows point to the stripes. The bee and fly shimmy to show off their stripes.

127 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 127
But look closely. Do you see any
differences?

128 ARI (O.S.) 128
The bee has four wings, but the fly
only has two.

Arrows point to the wings as the bee and fly raise them. The bee raises its four wings triumphantly, and the fly droops its two wings.

129 OLIVE (O.S.) 129
The fly has big, bulging eyes.

Arrows point to the bee and fly eyes. The fly's big bulging eyes sparkle beautifully.

130 ELINOR (O.S.) 130
And the bee has long antennae
sticking off of its head. The fly
has short antennae.

Arrows indicate the bee and fly antennae as they wiggle them. Cut back to Mz. Mole and the kids.

131 MZ. MOLE 131
 Right! Even so, that fly looks a
 lot like the bee. It's pretty good
 at pretending.

132 ELINOR 132
 But Mz. Mole, why does the fly
 pretend to be a bee?

133 MZ. MOLE 133
 Good question!

Cut back to the book. A generic songbird flies up, looks at
 the bee and fly, then turns around and flies away.

134 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 134
 Most animals know not to bother
 bees because bees can sting. If it
 pretends to be a bee, this fly
 won't get bothered by anyone.

The fly does a triumphant little dance.

135 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 135
 In fact, lots of insects pretend to
 be bees, like some moths and
 beetles.

The bee jumps, shocked as a bee-mimic moth (eg. Snowberry
 clearwing moth) and a bee-mimic beetle (eg. Hairy flower
 scarab) fly in for a landing. They high five the fly.
 Photos of Snowberry Clearwing moth:
<https://bugguide.net/node/view/2639>
 Hairy flower scarab photo references:
<https://bugguide.net/node/view/24645>

136 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 136
 So when you're exploring nature,
 you need to keep an eye out for
 pretenders.

3. EXT SCHOOLYARD -- DAY

Mz. Mole is now wearing her Bee costume from 121B.

137 MZ. MOLE 137
 Huh? Where did Mz. Mole go?

She puts the book down and buzzes around the kids.

138 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 138
 Bzz! Bzz!

140	MZ. MOLE	140
	Sigh. (to the fly) Well, little	
	fly, these kids are too smart. They	
	just don't BEE-lieve us!	

FADE OUT.