

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP.126 "The Paper Trail"

By: Karen Moonah

Elinor's Question: *Where does paper come from?*

Logline: *When Elinor and her friends run out of drawing paper, they follow the 'paper trail' backwards, from the store, to the mill, to a forest - and learn where paper really comes from.*

ES 3a) Ask questions about and discuss examples of how humans use Earth's resources (including soil and water) to meet their needs.

ES 3c) Participate in simple activities to care for the environment. (Elinor and her friends discover that we use trees to make paper, and help to plant trees to replace the ones they've cut down.)

ND 4 (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Flows, Cycles and Conservation')
Appreciate the way that elements in the natural world change, interact and are re-used, and how we can organize our designed world to better fit and care for the environment. (Elinor and her friends come to understand the importance of replacing the trees we use, and of recycling paper, and protecting the forest)

Mains - Elinor, Ari, Olive, Mr. Beaver, Farmer Bear

Secondary: Ranger Rabbit, Mr. Hippo

Locations: Elinor's House, General Store, Paper Workshop, Tree Farm

Props: crayons, paper, recycling bin, papermaking equipment, wheelbarrow, axe, wagon, shovels, tree seedlings.

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SECOND DRAFT: May 23, 2019

1. EXT. ELINOR'S YARD - DAY

ESTABLISHING. Under the shelter of a beautiful LEAFY TREE, ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE share a kid-size table. They've been drawing with crayons.

1	ELINOR	1	*
	Okay, let's see our story so far.		*
	Ready?		*
	Olive and Ari nod. (The kids each hold a few drawings face-down ready to flip up.)		*
2	ELINOR (STORYTELLING) (CONT'D)	2	*
	'Once upon a time in the enchanted		*
	forest, there was a <u>big, beautiful</u>		*
	<u>tree</u> -'		*
	ANGLE ON: Ari flips up a picture he made, of a HUGE TREE.		*
3	ELINOR (STORYTELLING) (CONT'D)	3	*
	'- where a <u>bird</u> had made her nest.'		*
	Olive flips up her drawing, of a bird in a nest - but then		*
	Olive frowns.		*
4	OLIVE	4	*
	(laughing)		*
	Ari, your tree is taller than that		*
	paper.		*
	(It's true - Ari is now drawing off the top of the paper.)		*
5	ARI	5	*
	Oops. Better start again.		*
	Ari tosses his drawing into a RECYCLING BIN on the ground,		*
	which already has many sheets of discarded paper in it, and		*
	grabs a fresh sheet from a PILE OF PAPER on the table.		*
	Olive frowns slightly at her picture.		*
6	OLIVE	6	*
	I'll re-do mine too. I don't like		*
	how the bird's wings turned out.		*
	Olive recycles her drawing too, and grabs a new sheet.		*
	Elinor resumes the story, holding up her own picture - it		*
	shows an 'OGRE' in the woods.		*

7	ELINOR (STORYTELLING)	7	*
	But one day, an ogre came stomping		*
	through the forest, pushing down		*
	all the trees!		*
	Olive and Ari stare at her picture.		*
8	OLIVE	8	*
	An ogre? I thought it was going to		*
	be a giant!		*
9	ELINOR	9	*
	Is there a difference?		*
10	OLIVE	10	*
	A giant's a lot bigger.		*
	Olive holds up a picture she made, with a giant who's so big,		*
	only his FOOT fits in the drawing beside the tree!		*
11	ELINOR	11	*
	Whoa, the poor trees! He could STEP		*
	on them! Okay, I'll draw him as a		*
	giant -		*
	Elinor tosses her 'ogre' picture into the rather full		*
	RECYCLING BIN. She reaches for a new sheet of paper, but		*
	there isn't any.		*
12	ELINOR (CONT'D)	12	*
	- oops. Out of paper. Come on,		*
	let's get some more...		*
	Elinor gets up and heads for the house. Her friends follow.		*
 2. INT. KITCHEN - DAY			
	RANGER RABBIT is chopping vegetables when the kids enter.		*
13	ELINOR	13	*
	Hi Mom. Can I get some more paper		*
	from the cupboard?		*
14	RANGER RABBIT	14	*
	Sure, Elinor. Help yourself.		*
	(to Ari and Olive)		*
	How's it going with your storybook?		*
15	ARI (ENTHUSIASTIC)	15	*
	Great! It's about a bird who has to		*
	protect her tree from a giant.		*

16	RANGER RABBIT	16	*
	Ah! Well, trees do need protecting.		*
	Elinor breaks in, gesturing to an empty shelf in a cupboard.		*
17	ELINOR	17	*
	Mom? There's no paper here.		*
18	RANGER RABBIT	18	*
	Oh? We must have run out.		*
19	ELINOR (CONFUSED)	19	*
	Run out? But - this is where paper		*
	comes from. The cupboard!		*
	Ranger Rabbit smiles, making sure not to laugh.		*
20	RANGER RABBIT	20	*
	Well <i>before</i> that, it comes from a		*
	store.		*
21	OLIVE	21	*
	Yeah! Mr. Hippo's store.		*
22	ARI	22	*
	(beat) I knew that.		*
	ANGLE ON Elinor, suddenly thoughtful.		
23	ELINOR	23	*
	Hmm. I never thought about it		*
	before, but - <i>where does paper come</i>		*
	<i>from, anyway?</i>		*
24	OLIVE (WORRIED)	24	*
	We can't finish making our book		*
	without paper.		*
	Elinor looks hopefully at Ranger Rabbit.		*
25	ELINOR	25	*
	Maybe we could go to the store and		*
	buy some more?		*
	Ranger Rabbit reaches into a drawer for a little COIN PURSE.		*
26	RANGER RABBIT	26	*
	All right. This should be enough		*
	money for a pack of paper.		*
27	ELINOR	27	*
	Thanks Mom. We won't be long!		*

Elinor, Ari and Olive wave good-bye as they EXIT. *

DISSOLVE TO:

3. EXT. MAIN STREET - MR. HIPPO'S STORE

ESTABLISH Mr. Hippo's store, as the three kids hurry through the main door. A bell <JINGLES> to announce their arrival.

4. INT. MR. HIPPO'S STORE

MR. HIPPO is moving along a shelf, rapidly (and comically) pricing items with a STICKER GUN - <KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK> when the kids enter. *

28 ELINOR 28 *
Hi Mr. Hippo. *

<KA-CHUNK> As Mr. Hippo turns to greet them, he 'prices' Ari. *

29 MR. HIPPO (SINGSONG) 29 *
Good morning - whoops! *

Ari peels off the sticker. *

30 ARI (JOKES) 30 *
Fifty cents? Aw, come on, I'm worth *
at least a dollar. *

31 MR. HIPPO 31 *
(chuckle) Well, I am having a sale. *
What can I do for you, kids? *

32 ELINOR 32
We're making a storybook, but we
ran out of paper.

33 MR. HIPPO 33
Ah, paper! Aisle two. Top shelf.

The kids eagerly hurry down an aisle - but their faces fall.

POV - there's an empty shelf in front of them.

34 ARI 34
But there's none here!

Mr. Hippo approaches. He reacts with mild surprise.

35 MR. HIPPO 35
Oh! I'm sorry. I guess we're out. *

36 OLIVE 36
But how can a store run out of
paper? This is where paper comes
from. *

37 MR. HIPPO 37
(chuckles) Oh, no. Stores usually
don't *make* the things they sell.
Everything you see in my store was
made by someone else. *

Elinor, Ari and Olive look at each other in surprise. They
never thought about this. <SFX: SURPRISED OOOHH WALLA> *

38 ELINOR 38
Then who *makes* the paper? *

39 MR. HIPPO 39
Mr. Beaver. And it looks like I
need to ask him to bring some more. *

40 ELINOR 40
Why don't we go and ask him *for*
you? *
(aside, to Ari and Olive) *
Then maybe we'll get to see how he
makes the paper. *

Ari and Olive nod in enthusiastic agreement. *

41 MR. HIPPO 41
Well, that would be fine! Thank
you, kids. *

As the trio head out the door again - <JINGLE!> - we *

DISSOLVE TO:

5. EXT. MR. BEAVER'S PAPER FACTORY *

The three kids approach Mr. Beaver's 'paper factory' - really
more of a small workshop on the Beaver family property. *

CLOSER - a PAPER-THEMED PICTOGRAM SIGN by the door confirms
that this is the right place. Elinor <KNOCKS> on the door.

42 MR. BEAVER (OS) 42
Come in!

The kids push open the door. CUT TO:

6. INT. MR. BEAVER'S FACTORY

INSIDE - the kids find MR. BEAVER, amid an assortment of low-tech, PAPER-MAKING EQUIPMENT.

43	MR. BEAVER	43	*
	Well, hi there! What brings you to my paper factory this fine morning?		*
44	ELINOR	44	
	Paper, Mr. Beaver. We were making a storybook, but we ran out.		*
45	OLIVE	45	
	We went to the store to buy more, but Mr. Hippo's out of paper too.		*
46	MR. BEAVER	46	*
	Ah, so he sent you to me! Well, you came to the right place. I was just about to make some.		*
47	ELINOR (EAGER)	47	*
	Can we watch? We want to know how you do it.		*
48	MR. HIPPO	48	*
	Of course! Right this way...		*
He beckons, and they follow him. Mr. Beaver's first stop is a BIN, from which he takes a SMALL LENGTH OF CUT WOOD.			
49	MR. BEAVER	49	
	It all starts with this.		
50	ELINOR	50	
	A piece of wood? What does that have to do with paper?		
51	MR. BEAVER	51	*
	Everything! Paper is MADE from wood.		*
CUT TO Elinor, Ari and Olive, who are quite amazed. <SFX: AMAZED WALLA>			
52	ELINOR	52	*
	That's SO interesting! We need more observations.		*
Mr. Beaver grabs 3 pairs of SAFETY GOGGLES, and dons his own.			

53 MR. BEAVER 53 *

Then you better put on your *

'observation' goggles, for safety. *

The kids put on the goggles, giggling at how funny they look. *

<SFX: GIGGLE WALLA> *

54 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 54 *

First, I grind up the wood into *

little pieces... *

Mr. Beaver takes the log to a WOOD-GRINDING MACHINE. He feeds *

the log into it, and a <GRINDING NOISE> erupts. *

CUT TO the kids - covering their ears at the loud sound! *

WOOD SHAVINGS shower out the other end, into a box. *

55 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 55 *

Ah, I love the smell of wood chips *

in the morning. (jokes) And the *

afternoon... and the evening. *

Mr. Beaver takes the box of wood shavings, and dumps this *

into a big TROUGH of STEAMING HOT WATER. *

56 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 56 *

Then I mix the wood chips with *

water... and cook it. *

He grabs a VERY LONG-HANDLED LADLE and starts stirring. *

Elinor watches with astonishment. *

57 ELINOR 57 *

Cook it? Like... *wood porridge*? *

58 MR. BEAVER (CHUCKLES) 58 *

Exactly! Until the wood gets all *

soft and mushy... then it's called *

pulp. *

Mr. Beaver turns to a SECOND TROUGH, spoons up some of the *

mushy pulp, and pours it over a framed screen. *

59 MR. BEAVER (AMUSED) (CONT'D) 59 *

Now I pour the wood pulp over a *

screen... *

Water pours off into a basin, below. Mr. Beaver picks up the *

screen full of wood pulp and puts it down on a flat mat. Then *

he lays a big flat board over it. *

60 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 60 *

Squish out all the water... *

He presses on the board - then lifts it up to REVEAL a damp sheet of HOMEMADE PAPER. *

61 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 61
TA-DA! One piece of slightly wet
handmade paper. Go ahead, peel it
off! *

Elinor gingerly peels the fresh paper off the screen, and holds it up to show her friends. <SFX: KIDS AMAZED WALLA> *

62 ARI 62
That's so cool! *

63 MR. BEAVER 63
I'll hang it up to dry. *

Mr. Beaver hangs the wet sheet of paper from a low string, like wet clothing on a clothesline. *

64 ELINOR 64
I can't believe I thought paper
just came from the cupboard. *

65 MR. BEAVER 65
(chuckle) Just about everything we
use is made somewhere else. And
it's all made out of something. *

66 OLIVE 66
Like wood! *

Mr. Beaver puts his safety glasses back up on his forehead, looking thoughtful. (OS, the kids remove theirs too.) *

67 MR. BEAVER 67
Speaking of wood... that was my
last piece. I'd better ask Farmer
Bear to send over some more. *

Elinor gets an idea. *

68 ELINOR 68
If you want, we can go and ask her
right now? *

69 MR. BEAVER 69
Well, that would be a big help! *

70 ARI 70
We're on it, Mr. Beaver. See you
later! *

As Ari sets off, still waving good-bye, Mr. Beaver warns - *

71	MR. BEAVER	71	*
	Watch out for the -		*
	<WET SMACK!> Ari has walked right into the sheet of wet paper he just hung up! Ari peels it off, cringing.		*
			*
72	MR. BEAVER (CONT'D)	72	*
	- (chuckle) Wet paper.		*
73	ARI (SHEEPISH)	73	*
	Heh. Sorry.		*
	As Ari wipes his face and follows the girls OS, we		*
	DISSOLVE TO:		
	7. EXT. FARMER BEAR'S TREE FARM - MINUTES LATER		*
	FARMER BEAR uses a SHOVEL to dig a small hole, at the edge of a woodlot. She hums happily as she works. SFX: HAPPY HUMMING>		*
			*
	Then she takes a perky TREE SEEDLING from her SUPPLY WAGON and plants it in the hole. As she tamps down the earth -		*
			*
74	ELINOR (OS)	74	*
	Hi, Farmer Bear!		*
	The farmer looks up to see Elinor, Ari and Olive approach.		*
75	FARMER BEAR (CHEERFUL)	75	*
	Well, if it isn't Elinor, Ari and Olive! What are you sprouts doing here?		*
			*
76	ELINOR	76	*
	Mr. Beaver sent us. See, we need more paper to finish our storybook -		*
			*
77	OLIVE	77	*
	- but Mr. Beaver can't make the paper without wood.		*
			*
	Ari looks around, to see where the wood comes from.		*
78	ARI	78	*
	If you're busy, we could just pick the wood ourselves, and take it to him?		*
			*
	Farmer Bear raises an eyebrow, puzzled.		*
79	FARMER BEAR	79	*
	<u>Pick</u> the wood?		*

80	ARI	80	*
	Yeah! Doesn't it grow on trees?		*
	THOUGHT BUBBLE - Ari imagines SMALL WOOD PLANKS like the one		*
	Mr. Beaver had, dangling from tree limbs like fruit. The		*
	farmer plucks one off, and puts it into a bushel basket.		*
	(END THOUGHT BUBBLE)		*
81	FARMER BEAR (CHUCKLING)	81	*
	Not exactly, Ari. Wood doesn't grow		*
	ON trees. Trees are MADE of wood.		*
	Elinor looks confused. This isn't making sense yet.		*
82	ELINOR	82	*
	Wait. What do you mean?		*
83	FARMER BEAR	83	*
	Wood comes from the trunks of big		*
	trees, when they're cut down.		*
	Elinor's eyes widen. She looks to Elinor and Ari, who look		*
	astonished too.		*
84	ELINOR	84	*
	You have to <i>cut down</i> trees to get		*
	wood?		*
85	ARI	85	*
	But Ranger Rabbit says trees need		*
	protecting!		*
86	FARMER BEAR	86	*
	And she's right. That's why, for		*
	every tree I cut down, I plant two		*
	new ones. That way there'll be		*
	plenty of trees in the future.		*
	She gestures to the row of seedlings she's just planted.		*
87	FARMER BEAR (CONT'D)	87	*
	I guess you could say I'm planting		*
	some 'wood' right now.		*
	Elinor, Olive and Ari try to get a handle on all of this.		*
88	OLIVE	88	*
	Let me get this straight. To get		*
	paper, first you cut down a big		*
	tree, for its wood -		*

89	ARI	89	*
	- then the wood goes to a factory		*
	to be made into paper -		*
90	ELINOR	90	*
	- then the paper goes to a store,		*
	where we buy it and take it home?		*
	Farmer Bear nods.		*
91	FARMER BEAR	91	*
	That's it! It sounds like you		*
	figured out the whole paper trail.		*
	<MUSIC UP> as Farmer Bear launches into a -		*
	<u>SONG MOMENT - "THE PAPER TRAIL"</u>		*
	(As she sings, Farmer Bear digs a new hole. Elinor helpfully		*
	puts a seedling into it, and tenderly covers it with soil.)		*
92	FARMER BEAR (SINGS) (CONT'D)	92	*
	<i>You're on the trail of paper</i>		*
	<i>And this is what you found</i>		*
	<i>It all starts when a tiny tree</i>		*
	<i>Is planted in the ground</i>		*
	The farmer pats the thick trunk of the nearest mature tree.		*
93	FARMER BEAR (SINGS) (CONT'D)	93	*
	<i>The tree grows tall and mighty</i>		*
	<i>Until we cut it down</i>		*
	<i>And then the wood that comes from</i>		*
	<i>it is taken into town</i>		*
	ALT: 'The tree grows tall and mighty, until we need its wood		*
	/ we cut it down, but baby trees are planted where it stood'		*
	As the three kids listen, we DISSOLVE TO:		*
	FLASHBACK - INT. MR. BEAVER'S PAPER FACTORY		*
	QUICK CUTS to recap the papermaking process, as Mr. Beaver		*
	grinds up the log, 'cooks' the wood into pulp, and pours it		*
	out onto a screen.		*
	<i>The wood goes to a factory</i>		*
	<i>To grind and mix and blend</i>		*
100	ANGLE ON Elinor, the moment she peels wet paper off a screen,	100	*
	and holds it up in wonder.		*
	<i>Whoever knew that paper would</i>		*
	<i>Come out the other end?</i>		*

BACK TO SCENE - the kids now march behind Farmer Bear as she pulls her SUPPLY WAGON along as she sings:

*The paper travels to a store,
From there we take it home.
Oh, every piece of paper has
A story of its own!*

(END SONG.)

Farmer Bear has stopped her wagon near a MID-SIZED TREE.

94 FARMER BEAR (CONT'D) 94
Well, I guess I'd better get some
wood for Mr. Beaver.

She reaches for an axe in the wagon.

95 ARI 95
*So he can make the paper we need,
to finish our book!*

ANGLE ON Elinor - her eyes grow wide, and she gestures for the Farmer to stop.

96 ELINOR 96
Wait! Don't cut down the
tree!(beat) Maybe we *don't* need
more paper yet.

Ari and Olive look surprised.

97 OLIVE 97
What? But how else can we finish
our book?

98 ELINOR 98
I think I know another way...

Off Olive and Ari's puzzled looks, we DISSOLVE TO:

11. EXT. ELINOR'S HOUSE

WIDE ON the yard, with its <CHIRPING> birds, and shady tree. The crayons and recycling bin are right where they left them.

CLOSER - Elinor leads Olive and Ari to the brimming recycling bin. She picks it up and puts it on top of the table.

99 ELINOR 99
Look, we still have LOTS of paper
in the recycling bin.

Ari takes out a sheet, and holds the already-used side
towards Elinor.

*
*

100 ARI 100
 But it's *used*.

101 ELINOR 101
 Only on one side. The other side is
 still good.

She turns the paper around to show the fresh reverse side.

102 ELINOR (CONT'D) 102
 Now that we know paper comes from
 trees... maybe we could use a
 little less of it?

CUT TO Ari and Olive. They look up at the big, friendly tree
overhead - and share a smile.

103 OLIVE 103
 We can do that.

Elinor grins, and raids the recycling bin, handing out a few
sheets to each of her friends.

*

104 ARI 104
 So... where were we?

105 ELINOR (GRINS) 105
 Protecting the forest.

106 OLIVE 106
 (laughing) Oh yeah!

They settle in at the table, flip their paper over to the
blank side, and resume their brainstorming, crayons poised.

*
*

107 ELINOR 107
 What if the bird takes one of her
 feathers, and sneaks up on the
 giant -

*
*
*
*

108 ARI 108
 - Oh! And tickles his feet so hard
 that he can't stand it!

*
*

SLOWLY, we start to TILT UP to the leafy tree canopy above...

*

109 OLIVE (OS) 109
 The giant runs away, and the trees
 are SAVED!

*
*

<SFX: COOL, AWESOME WALLA>...as we FADE OUT.

*