

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

Olive and Ari nod. (The kids each hold a few drawings face-down ready to flip up.)

ANGLE ON: Ari flips up a picture he made, of a BIG TREE. But - *

It's true - Ari accidentally drew the top half of his tree on
a sheet of paper underneath the first.

Ari tosses *both* his pages into a CARDBOARD BOX 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. *

Elinor continues. *

Olive flips up *her* drawing, of a nesting bird - then frowns. *

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 into
 through the forest. He wanted to
 push 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
 STOMP them down! 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. We're 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 the trees 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 *before* that, it comes from a
store.

21 OLIVE 21
Yeah! Mr. Hippo's store.

22 ARI 22
(beat) I knew that.

BACK ON Elinor, looking concerned. *

23 ELINOR 23
Well, we can't finish making our
storybook without paper. *

She looks hopefully at Ranger Rabbit. *

24 ELINOR (CONT'D) 24
Maybe we could go to the store and
buy some more?

Ranger Rabbit reaches into a drawer for a little COIN PURSE.

25 RANGER RABBIT 25
All right. This should be enough
money for a pack of paper.

26 ELINOR 26
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.

27 OLIVE 27 *

Hi Mr. Hippo.

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

28 MR. HIPPO (SINGSONG) 28

Good morning - whoops!

Ari peels off the sticker.

29 ARI (JOKES) 29

Fifty cents? Aw, come on, I'm worth at least a dollar.

The Kids <SFX: GIGGLE> *

30 ELINOR 30 *

Mr. Hippo, we're making a storybook, but we ran out of paper. *

31 MR. HIPPO 31 *

Ah, paper! Aisle two. Middle shelf.

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

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

32 ARI 32 *

Huh? You're out of paper too?

33 OLIVE 33

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

Mr. Hippo strolls over to join them. *

34 MR. HIPPO 34

(chuckles) Oh, no. Stores usually don't *make* the things they sell. *

Everything here was made by someone else. *

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

35 ELINOR 35
Someone else makes the paper. Then,
where does paper come from? *

36 MR. HIPPO 36
Mr. Beaver. And it looks like I
need to ask him to bring some more.

37 ELINOR 37
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.

38 MR. HIPPO 38
Well, that would be fine! Thank
you, kids.

As the trio head out the door again - <JINGLE!> - Mr. Hippo
grins. <KA-CHUNK!> He mischievously 'prices' his own arm. As
he goes back then goes back to work, 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.

39 MR. BEAVER (OS) 39
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.

40 MR. BEAVER 40
Well, hi there! What brings you to
my paper factory this fine morning?

41	ELINOR	41	
	Hi, Mr. Beaver! We're looking for		*
	paper. We were making a storybook,		*
	but we ran out.		*

42 OLIVE 42
We went to the store to buy more,
but Mr. Hippo's out of paper too.

43 MR. BEAVER 43

Ah, so he sent you to me! Well, you came to the right place. I was just about to make some.

44	ARI	44	*
	Ooh, you're going to make paper?		*

45 ELINOR (EAGER) 45
Can we watch? We want to know how
you do it.

46 MR. BEAVER 46 *

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.

47 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 47
It all starts with this.

48 ELINOR 48
A piece of wood? What does that
have to do with paper?

49 MR. BEAVER 49
Everything! Paper is MADE from
wood.

CUT TO Elinor, Ari and Olive, who are quite amazed. <SFX:
AMAZED WALLA>

50 ELINOR 50
That's SO interesting! We need more
observations.

Mr. Beaver grabs 3 pairs of SAFETY GOGGLES, and dons his own.

51 MR. BEAVER 51
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>

52 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 52
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. MR. *
Beaver takes a big <SFX: SNIIIF> *

53 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 53
(to himself rapturously *
ala Homer Simpson) *
Mmmmmmmmm. Wood chips. *

Mr. Beaver takes the box of wood shavings, and dumps this into a big TROUGH of STEAMING HOT WATER.

54 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 54
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.

55 ELINOR 55
Cook it? Like... wood soup? *

56 MR. BEAVER (CHUCKLES) 56
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.

57 MR. BEAVER (AMUSED) (CONT'D) 57
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.

58 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 58
Squish out all the water...

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

59 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 59
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>

60 ARI 60
That's so cool!

61 MR. BEAVER 61
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.

62 ELINOR 62
I can't believe I thought paper
just came from the cupboard.

63 MR. BEAVER 63
(chuckle) Just about everything we
use is made somewhere else. And
it's all made out of something.

64 OLIVE 64
Like wood!

65 ARI 65 *
So, can you make us some paper, Mr. *
Beaver? *

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

66 MR. BEAVER 66 *
I'd love to! But that was my last *
piece of wood. I need to ask Farmer
Bear to send over some more.

Elinor gets an idea.

67 ELINOR 67 *
We know where Farmer Bear's farm *
is. If you want, we can go and ask
her right now?

68 MR. BEAVER 68
Well, that would be a big help!

69 ARI 69
We're on it, Mr. Beaver. See you
later!

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

70 MR. BEAVER 70
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.

71 MR. BEAVER (CONT'D) 71
- (chuckle) Wet paper.

72 ARI (SHEEPISH) 72
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 -

73 ELINOR (OS) 73
Hi, Farmer Bear!

The farmer looks up to see Elinor, Ari and Olive approach.

74 FARMER BEAR (CHEERFUL) 74
Well, if it isn't Elinor, Ari and Olive! What are you sprouts doing here?

75 ELINOR 75
Mr. Beaver sent us. See, we need more paper to finish our storybook -

76 OLIVE 76
- but Mr. Beaver can't make the paper without wood.

Ari nods. *

77 ARI 77
So we came to help you pick more wood! *

Farmer Bear raises an eyebrow, puzzled. *

78	FARMER BEAR	78	
	<u>Pick</u> the wood?		
79	ARI	79	
	Yeah! Doesn't wood 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)			
80	FARMER BEAR (AMUSED)	80	*
	Mmm, not exactly, Ari. Wood doesn't grow ON trees. Trees are MADE of wood.		*
Elinor looks confused. This isn't making sense yet.			
81	ELINOR	81	
	Wait. What do you mean?		
82	FARMER BEAR	82	
	Wood comes from the trunks and branches of big trees. We have to cut them down to get the wood.		*
			*
			*
Elinor's eyes widen. She looks to Elinor and Ari, who look astonished too.			
83	ELINOR	83	
	You have to <i>cut down</i> trees to get wood?		*
84	FARMER BEAR	84	
	Yes! But don't worry. For every tree I cut down, I plant two new ones. That way, there will be plenty of trees in the future.		*
			*
She gestures to the row of seedlings she's just planted.			
85	FARMER BEAR (CONT'D)	85	
	I guess you could say I'm planting some 'wood' right now.		
Elinor is thinking about what she just heard, while Olive and Ari try to get a handle on all of this.			
86	OLIVE	86	
	Let me get this straight. To get paper, first you get wood from a tree -		*
			*

87 ARI 87

- then the wood goes to a factory
to be made into paper -

88 OLIVE 88 *

- then the paper goes to a store,
where we buy it and take it home?

Farmer Bear nods.

89 FARMER BEAR 89
That's it! It sounds like you
figured out the whole paper trail.

<MUSIC UP> as Farmer Bear launches into a -

SONG MOMENT - "THE PAPER TRAIL"

(As she sings, Farmer Bear digs a new hole. Elinor helpfully puts a seedling into it, and tenderly covers it with soil.)

90 FARMER BEAR (SINGS) (CONT'D) 90
You're on the trail of paper
And this is what you found
It all starts when a tiny tree
Is planted in the ground

The farmer pats the thick trunk of the nearest mature tree.

91	FARMER BEAR (SINGS) (CONT'D)	91
	<i>The tree grows tall and mighty</i>	
	<i>Until we bring it down</i>	*
	<i>And then we make some nice wood</i>	*
	<i>and take it into town</i>	*

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.

*The wood goes to a factory
To grind and mix and blend*

100 ANGLE ON Elinor, the moment she peels wet paper off a screen, 100
and holds it up in wonder.

Whoever knew that paper would
Come out the other end?

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.

92	FARMER BEAR (CONT'D)	92
	Well, I guess I'd better get some wood for Mr. Beaver.	

She reaches for an axe in the wagon.

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

93	ELINOR (BLURTS)	93	*
	Wait! Farmer Bear, I know that having paper is good, and that we have to cut trees to get it, but... Maybe we <i>don't</i> need more paper yet.		* * * *

Ari and Olive look surprised.

94	OLIVE	94	
	What? But how else can we finish our storybook?		*

95	ELINOR	95
	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.

96	ELINOR	96
	Look, we still have LOTS of paper in the recycling bin.	

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

97	ARI	97
	But it's <i>used</i> .	

98 ELINOR 98
Only on one side. We can still draw *
on the other side. *

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

99 ELINOR (CONT'D) 99
Now that we know paper comes from
trees... maybe we shouldn't waste *
so much of it? *

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

100 OLIVE 100
We can do that.

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

101 ARI 101
So... where were we?

102 ELINOR (GRINS) 102
Protecting the forest.

103 OLIVE 103
(laughing) Oh yeah!

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

104 ELINOR 104
What if the bird takes one of her
feathers, and sneaks up on the
giant -

105	ARI	105
	- Oh! And tickles the giant's feet!	*
	The giant laughs so hard, that he	*
	doesn't want to push over the trees	*
	anymore.	*

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

106	OLIVE (OS)	106	
	And they all live happily ever		*
	after - including the trees.		*

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