

# ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP Bubble House

By: Katherine Sandford

**Elinor's Question:** How can we make a bubble house like the spittle bug does?

**Logline:** Inspired by a spittle-bug Elinor, Olive and Ari decide to make a bubble house, but it's not as easy as they thought..

## **Curriculum Goals:**

- LS5. Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs:

- a. Distinguish between living and nonliving things based on background knowledge and

- b. Identify the habitats of familiar animals and plants in the environment

- c. Recognize that each kind of living things has a habitat that has resources to meet its unique needs (Elinor and her friends observe the spittle-bug's bubble house, notice how he makes it (by blowing bubbles) and learn why (to hide inside)).

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. [Elinor and her friends are inspired by the spittle bug's bubbles to make a bubble house of their own].

SEP1. Asking questions (science) and defining problems (engineering)

- b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena

- c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation

- d. Identify a problem that can be solved by the design of a new or improved object or tool

(Elinor and her friends ask questions about the nature of bubble house and how it is made, then they replicate the method the spittle bug uses (blow lots of small bubbles) to make a bubble house.

SEP6. Constructing explanations (science) and Designing Solutions (engineering)

- a. Use background knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena (science)

- b. Look for and describe patterns and relationships in natural phenomena (science)

- c. Use and apply productive science discourse to support an explanation

- d. Use evidence to support a theory or solution to a problem (engineering) (Elinor and her friends observe the spittle bug, then design their own bubble house).

LINE COUNT: 117

MAINS: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Ranger Rabbit

LOCATIONS: Forest near Elinor's; Elinor's back yard

PROPS: Spittle bug, magnifying glass, pail, dish soap, bubble  
wands and lots of BUBBLES

FIRST DRAFT: 22-May-19

**1. EXT. FOREST NEAR ELINOR'S HOUSE - DAY**

ARI is trudging along, dragging a branch behind him. NOTE: We can see ELINOR, hopping around in the background, picking up small rocks. She stops when she sees something on a low branch in a tree and <SFX: GASPS>

ARI passes OLIVE who is busy piling a low row of leaves in a circle on the ground for the walls of her leaf house (mostly in her imagination).

|   |                                   |   |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | OLIVE                             | 1 |
|   | (good-naturedly)                  |   |
|   | Careful, Ari. You almost dragged  |   |
|   | your stick through the wall of my |   |
|   | leaf house.                       |   |

She points at the leaves.

|   |                                  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 2 | ARI                              | 2 |
|   | Whoops. Sorry about that, Olive. |   |
|   | I'll just get this out of...ugh, |   |
|   | urgh.                            |   |

He tries to back up with his branch, but it's awkward.

|   |                                           |   |
|---|-------------------------------------------|---|
| 3 | OLIVE                                     | 3 |
|   | (giggling)                                |   |
|   | You <i>could</i> just use the front door. |   |

Olive smiles, gesturing to a gap in the leaves.

|   |                |   |
|---|----------------|---|
| 4 | ARI            | 4 |
|   | Oh, good idea! |   |

Ari drags his branch over and knocks on the pretend door.

|   |                      |   |
|---|----------------------|---|
| 5 | ARI (CONT'D)         | 5 |
|   | Knock, knock, knock. |   |

|   |             |   |
|---|-------------|---|
| 6 | OLIVE       | 6 |
|   | (sing-song) |   |
|   | Who is it?  |   |

|   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| 7 | ARI           | 7 |
|   | It's me, Ari. |   |

Olive opens the pretend door.

|   |                                    |   |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 8 | OLIVE                              | 8 |
|   | (making door sound)                |   |
|   | Rrrr. Oh, hi, Ari! How nice to see |   |
|   | you.                               |   |

9 ARI 9  
Nice to see you too, Olive. Would  
you mind if I dragged my stick  
through your leaf house?

10                                 OLIVE                                 10  
Not at all. Let me open the back  
door for you. Rrrrrr.

Olive pantomimes opening the pretend back door (another gap in the leaves) and Ari drags his stick through.

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11          ARI 11
      Thanks, Olive!
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12 OLIVE 12  
You're welcome Ari. Stop by any  
time.

WIDEN: Ari sets his branch in place close to where ELINOR is looking at something in a tree.

|    |                                     |    |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| 13 | ARI                                 | 13 |
|    | My stick house is gonna be AWESOME! |    |
|    | How's your rock house coming,       |    |
|    | Elinor? ...Elinor?                  |    |

But Elinor isn't working on her house. Something has caught her eye on a nearby branch. WIDEN: Ari and Olive share a smile.

14 OLIVE 14  
She's not listening. She's probably  
found something interesting....

Olive and Ari approach Elinor.

15                                 ARI                                 15  
What's up, Elinor?

Their curious friend points to her latest discovery.

16                                ELINOR                                16  
                               (in awe)  
                               Look...

They follow Elinor's finger to a nearby branch.

17 ELINOR (CONT'D) 17  
Bubbles...

SCIENCE CU: The kids gaze at a small collection of bubbles resting on a nearby branch.

18 OLIVE 18  
Wow. How did bubbles get on a tree?

Just at that moment the bubbles move a little.

19 ARI 19  
<GASP!> Did those bubbles just  
WIGGLE??

The bubbles move again.

20 OLIVE 20  
How can bubbles move on their own?  
They aren't alive, are they?

21 ELINOR 21  
We need MORE observations. Olive,  
magnifying glass please?

Olive takes Elinor's magnifying glass out of her satchel and  
hands it to her.

MAGNIFYING GLASS POV: the bubbles move again then a little  
SPITTLE BUG crawls out.

22 ARI 22  
<GASP!> A BUG!

23 OLIVE 23  
So the bubbles weren't moving, it  
was that little bug INSIDE the  
bubbles that moved.

24 ELINOR 24  
(excited)  
That is SO INTERESTING!

The spittle bug hears Elinor's voice he retreats back into  
his bubbles.

25 ELINOR (CONT'D) 25  
Uh-oh, the bug's gone back inside  
his bubbles. Bye-bye bug.

At that moment RANGER RABBIT calls from the yard nearby.

26 RANGER RABBIT 26  
Hey kids! Who's ready for some  
snacks?

27 ARI 27  
Did someone say...SNACKS!

Ari does a little flip of joy.

2. EXT. ELINOR'S BACK YARD -- DAY

37 ELINOR 37  
(thinking)  
Hmmm, his bubble house, eh?  
(gets an idea)  
<GASP!> Guys! I just had a bubbly  
idea! Let's make our own Bubble  
House - just like the spittle bug  
did.

This gets Ari and Olive's attention.

38                               ARI                               38  
A bubble house would be SOO COOL!

39                               OLIVE                               39  
Only, we don't have any bubbles.

40                               ELINOR                               40  
Not yet, but I know just how to get  
some. All I need is...

BUBBLE WIPE TO:

**3. EXT. ELINOR'S BACK YARD - MINUTES LATER**

CU: Elinor's cute, excited little face.

41                               ELINOR                               41  
...my BUBBLE STUFF!

WIDEN: Elinor is all set up with a small pail, some dish  
soap, some water, and bubble wands.

42                               ARI                               42  
Uhhmmm. I don't see any bubbles.

43                               ELINOR                               43  
We have to make them, Ari, like  
this!

Elinor picks up the soap.

44                               ELINOR (CONT'D)                               44  
First you mix the goopy soap with  
some water, then you stir it in.

She pours the water into a play pail and stirs it with her  
bubble wand.

45                               ELINOR (CONT'D)                               45  
Then you dip this bubble wand in  
and BLOW!

Elinor <SFX: BLOWS GENTLY>. Out pops a bubble.

46                               ARI                               46  
(amazed)  
Cooooool!

47                               OLIVE                               47  
Can I try?

|    |                                                                                                     |    |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 48 | ELINOR                                                                                              | 48 |
|    | Sure!                                                                                               |    |
|    | Olive <SFX: BLOWS HARD> and fails.                                                                  |    |
| 49 | ELINOR (CONT'D)                                                                                     | 49 |
|    | You have to blow a little more gently, Olive.                                                       |    |
| 50 | OLIVE                                                                                               | 50 |
|    | Oh, okay.                                                                                           |    |
|    | Olive <SFX: BLOWS GENTLY> - and then blows a bubble.                                                |    |
| 51 | ARI                                                                                                 | 51 |
|    | That's a PERFECT bubble, Olive!                                                                     |    |
|    | The kids watch it float away.                                                                       |    |
| 52 | OLIVE                                                                                               | 52 |
|    | Thanks, Ari. I can do another one.                                                                  |    |
|    | She <SFX: BLOWS> a second bubble.                                                                   |    |
| 53 | ARI                                                                                                 | 53 |
|    | That one's great too!                                                                               |    |
| 54 | ELINOR                                                                                              | 54 |
|    | (thinking)                                                                                          |    |
|    | But...it's not a bubble house.                                                                      |    |
|    | Olive <SFX: BLOWS> a third bubble, she's really engrossed in what she's doing.                      |    |
| 55 | ARI                                                                                                 | 55 |
|    | True. What should we do?                                                                            |    |
| 56 | OLIVE                                                                                               | 56 |
|    | Guys! Watch this!                                                                                   |    |
|    | Olive waves her wand around, making a whole bunch of bubbles.                                       |    |
| 57 | ARI                                                                                                 | 57 |
|    | Whooooaa! You can make bubbles just by waving your wand around - who knew?                          |    |
| 58 | ELINOR                                                                                              | 58 |
|    | I know what to do! Let's think up Bubble House ideas and try them out <i>while</i> we make bubbles. |    |
| 59 | ARI                                                                                                 | 59 |
|    | Sounds like a plan!                                                                                 |    |

So they dive in.

BUBBLE WIPE TO:

THE BUBBLE SONG

The kids are running around blowing bubbles and waving their wands (which also makes bubbles) as they sing:

60

ELINOR, OLIVE AND ARI

60

Bubble, bubble, bubble,  
We're gonna blow some bubbles.  
Elinor: To build a Bubble House,  
Olive: Like a Spittle Bug does,  
Ari: And get inside!

They all make bubbles.

ALL: Bubble, bubble, bubble,  
To build a Bubble House,  
Olive: We'll blow lots of little  
bubbles.  
Elinor: A whole pile of little  
bubbles,  
Ari: And try to get inside!

They have a pile of small bubbles (but not suds) but when Elinor touches them they <SFX: POP! POP! POP!>

ELINOR: (spoken, laughing) That  
didn't work...  
OLIVE: (spoken) Let's try again!

Olive is bending the bubble wand to make it bigger - or maybe putting two together.

ALL: Bubble, bubble, bubble,  
To build a Bubble House  
Olive: Let's blow A GIANT bubble.  
Ari: A really humungous bubble  
Elinor: And try to get inside!

They blow the biggest bubble possible but when Elinor touches it - it <SFX: POPS!>

ELINOR (spoken, laughing) That  
didn't work either,  
ARI: (spoken, laughing) Now what do  
we do?

(MORE)

ELINOR, OLIVE AND ARI (CONT'D)  
 ALL Bubble, bubble, bubble,  
 We blew lots of bubbles  
 But we couldn't make a Bubble  
 House.  
 Like the Spittle Bug does.  
 To get inside.

BUBBLE WIPE

**4. EXT. ELINOR'S BACK YARD -- LATER**

Bubbles are floating around the yard and <SFX: POPPING>. One <POPS> on Olive's trunk. The kids <SFX: LAUGH>. At that moment, Mom comes out the back door.

61 RANGER RABBIT 61  
 How's the bubble building going?

62 ARI 62  
 Well the good news is - we blew a  
 TONS of bubbles! First we blew a  
 whole pile of bubbles...

63 OLIVE 63  
 Then we blew a really ENORMOUS  
 bubble!

64 ELINOR 64  
 (disappointed)  
 But they all popped when we touched  
 them so we couldn't get inside.  
 (sigh)  
 I REALLY wanted a bubble house.

Olive puts her hand on Elinor's shoulder.

65 OLIVE 65  
 Me too.

Ari puts his hand on Olive's shoulder.

66 ARI 66  
 Me THREE.

The three kids <SFX: SIGH> with disappointment.

67 RANGER RABBIT 67  
 Hmmm. Sometimes, to learn from  
 things in nature, it's important to  
 observe not just what creatures do,  
 but HOW they do it.

68                                ELINOR                                68  
What do you mean, Mom?

69                                RANGER RABBIT                                69  
Well, HOW did the spittle bug build  
his bubble house?

70                                ELINOR                                70  
Oooh. I never thought about it that  
way before.  
                              (energized)  
We need even MORE observations!

**5. EXT. FOREST NEAR ELINOR'S - DAY**

The kids go back to the spittle bug tree.

71                                ELINOR                                71  
There's the bubble house.

72                                ARI                                                72  
But where's the spittle bug?

73                                OLIVE                                            73  
He's probably inside.

74                                ELINOR                                           74  
Let's watch really, really quietly.

75                                ARI                                               75  
Right. We don't want to scare him  
again.

ECU: At that moment the Spittle Bug comes out of the bubbles.

76                                ARI (CONT'D)                                   76  
                              (excited, forgetting)  
There he IS!

Elinor and Olive good-naturedly <SFX: SHHH> Ari.

77                                ARI (CONT'D)                                   77  
                              (whispering)  
Whoops, sorry.

78                                ELINOR                                           78  
Let's see what he does. Olive,  
magnifying glass please.

Olive hands Elinor the magnifying glass. MAGNIFYING POV: The  
Spittle Bug is blowing into the goopy liquid.

|    |                                                                                     |    |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 79 | ELINOR (CONT'D)                                                                     | 79 |
|    | Look! He's making bubbles for his bubble house                                      |    |
| 80 | ARI                                                                                 | 80 |
|    | But how? He doesn't have a bubble wand or anything.                                 |    |
| 81 | OLIVE                                                                               | 81 |
|    | I looks like he's blowing air INTO the goopy liquid                                 |    |
| 82 | ELINOR                                                                              | 82 |
|    | And that makes lots of really tiny bubbles, and they don't pop when he crawls in... |    |
|    | (the penny drops)                                                                   |    |
|    | Wait a minute. That's IT! Come on!                                                  |    |

**6. EXT. ELINOR'S BACK YARD - DAY**

Elinor, Ari and Olive run back into the yard.

|    |                                                                |    |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 83 | RANGER RABBIT                                                  | 83 |
|    | Well, what did you learn?                                      |    |
| 84 | ELINOR                                                         | 84 |
|    | The spittle bug makes lots and lots of really tiny bubbles.    |    |
| 85 | ARI                                                            | 85 |
|    | But he doesn't use a bubble wand.                              |    |
| 86 | OLIVE                                                          | 86 |
|    | He blows right INTO his bubble stuff.                          |    |
| 87 | ELINOR                                                         | 87 |
|    | Right. But HOW are we going to blow air into OUR bubble stuff. |    |
| 88 | OLIVE                                                          | 88 |
|    | Good question. Hmmmmmm.                                        |    |

At that moment, Ari finishes his drink. <SFX: Sluuuuurrrrp...>

|    |               |    |
|----|---------------|----|
| 89 | ARI           | 89 |
|    | Ahhh... What? |    |

Elinor is looking a Ari with a small smile.

90 OLIVE 90  
I know that look, it means Elinor  
has an idea.

And she does.

91 ELINOR 91  
Ari, let me borrow your straw,  
please.

Ari hands Elinor the straw. She puts it in the bubble stuff.

92 ARI 92  
Wait, Elinor! Don't drink the  
bubble stuff. It's SOAP! BLECH!!

93 OLIVE 93  
I don't think she's going to, Ari.

Elinor starts to blow air into the soapy mixture. <SFX: BLUB,  
BLUB, BLUB>

94 OLIVE (CONT'D) 94  
Elinor's using the straw to blow  
air into the bubble stuff, just  
like the spittle bug did.

ECU: A few bubbles froth up.

95 OLIVE (CONT'D) 95  
It's working!

96 ARI 96  
Let's help.

Ari and Olive grab straws and join Elinor blowing into the  
frothy liquid. Bubbles bubble up and over the edge of the  
container and start gathering on the ground.

97 OLIVE 97  
Keep going!

Finally, they make a REALLY big mountain of suds!

98 ARI 98  
Bubble-o-rama!! Now THAT's a Bubble  
House.

99 OLIVE 99  
Try to get inside, Elinor.

Elinor crawls inside the mound of bubbles and pokes her face  
out the front.

100 ELINOR 100  
<GASP!> We DID it!

Olive and Ari high-five <SFX: CELEBRATION WALLA>, then Elinor's Mom joins them.

101 RANGER RABBIT 101  
Wow, that's some impressive bubble building.

102 ELINOR 102  
Yep, we blew air INTO the bubble stuff.

103 OLIVE 103  
And made a whole bunch of SMALL bubbles.

104 ARI 104  
Just like the spittle bug did.

105 RANGER RABBIT 105  
Nice work, scientists.

106 ELINOR 106  
Thanks Mom.

Then Elinor turns her attention to her friends.

107 ELINOR (CONT'D) 107  
Hey Guys. Come on into our bubble house with me.

108 ARI 108  
Don't mind if I do.

109 OLIVE 109  
But...where's the door?

110 ELINOR 110  
Oops, wait a sec.

Elinor disappears for a beat, then pokes her face out the side.

111 ELINOR (CONT'D) 111  
Welcome to our Bubble House.

112 ARI 112  
(it's obvious)  
Oh, there's the door.

All the kids <SFX: GIGGLE> Olive and Ari climb into the Bubble House. A beat then, <SFX: Pop! Pop! Pop!> Three cute faces poke out of the bubbles.

|     |                                      |     |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 115 | RANGER RABBIT                        | 115 |
|     | Awww, look. Three cute spittle bugs. |     |

The three kids <SFX: LAUGH>

THE END