

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

127 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: STINKY SURPRISE

Written by
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Follows "Follow Your Nose"

Curriculum: The kids learn that some animals use stinky smells to protect themselves.

Learning Goals: LS2c: Compare how the external body parts of animals and plants are the same and/or different. [The kids learn that pinacate beetles store a stinky liquid in glands in their bodies.]

LS2d: Explore how different external features of an animal help it survive in its environment. [The kids learn that this stinky liquid helps keep pinacate beetles safe.]

FIRST DRAFT: 11-DEC-19

MZ. MOLE is standing in front of the class, teaching a lesson on beetles. (Maybe she's pointing to a poster of beetles, or she's drawn some beetles on a chalk board, or she's holding drawings of beetles taped to sticks.)

Mz. Mole pauses and lifts up her nose. <SFX: SNIFF>

Cut to the kids, who shrug.

5 OLIVE 5
Me neither. But we don't have your
amazing nose, Mz. Mole.

6 MZ. MOLE 6
Aha! A rotten banana. I must have
forgotten all about it.

7 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 7
Hey now, don't knock stinky smells!
Did you know that some stinks can
be USEFUL?

8 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 8
It's all right here in this book
about beetles.

2. EXT OUTSIDE (BOOK) -- DAY

We see a pinacate beetle standing on the sandy desert ground.

9	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	9
	This is a pinacate beetle. It lives in the desert. You won't find it hiding under a rock - it struts across the sand like it doesn't have a care in the world.	

The beetle struts across the sand, looking proud of itself.

10	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	10
	But it's a big juicy beetle and it really stands out against the sand. Isn't it worried about being eaten?	

The beetle shakes its head or swats a paw, looking
unconcerned.

11	MZ MOLE (O.S.)	11
	You see, the pinacate beetle has a secret power. Can you guess what it is?	

12	ELINOR (O.S.)	12
	Does it have an extra-strong shell?	

13	ARI (O.S.)	13
	Can it make a scary noise?	

14	OLIVE (O.S.)	14
	Or fly super fast?	

A hungry lizard appears in front of the beetle. It licks its
lips.

15	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	15
	Let's observe. Here comes a hungry lizard.	

The beetle flips around and does a headstand, pointing its
butt at the lizard.

16	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	16
	First, the beetle does a headstand.	

The lizard steps a little closer.

17	MZ MOLE (O.S.)	17
	Then, it sprays a jet of stinky liquid from a gland in its body.	

A jet of reddish-brown stinky fluid flies out and hits the lizard in its face. The kids <SFX: EWW> or laugh in surprise. The lizard looks disgusted and runs away. The beetle resumes its confident strut.

18	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) Saved by the sink!	18
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3. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

Mz. Mole puts down the book.

19	MZ. MOLE See, nature uses smells in all kids of amazing ways.	19
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She holds up the banana, looking at it thoughtfully.

20	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) So, maybe we should keep this stinky banana around?	20
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All the kids say <SFX: NO>.

21	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) I'm joking. But I know a place where its stink will fit right in.	21
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22	ELINOR The desert?	22
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23	MZ. MOLE The compost pile!	23
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<SFX: KID LAUGHTER> as Mz. Mole leads them out to the compost pile.

THE END.