

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW 129B Rocky The Rock

By Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: Are rocks alive?

Logline: When Ari makes friends with Rocky the Rock, he starts to wonder if the rock is alive.

Curriculum Goals: • LS5. Begin to understand that animals (including humans) 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. Differentiate between and begin to articulate the difference between animate and inanimate objects (e.g., animate objects can initiate their own movement and have different insides than inanimate objects) (Elinor and her friend differentiate between animate objects (living things - butterfly, flower, Ari and inanimate objects (non-living things - Rocky the rock)).

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 (Elinor and her friends wonder whether Rocky the rock is alive, and decide to investigate)

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

b. Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail
c. Demonstrate an ability to make and test predictions based on background knowledge and experiences ?
(Elinor and her friends compare Rocky the rock with something they know is alive (Ari) and predict what the rock will or won't do).

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data

a. Collect, describe, and record observations in greater detail and in various ways
d. Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem, and why it might have happened (Elinor and her friends collect, record and describe observations about living things and the rock, trying to decide if the rock is alive too).

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
(Elinor and her friends discuss their evidence and eventually decide that rocks don't eat, move or grow because they are not alive.)

SEP7. Engaging in argument from evidence

- a. Engage in discussions before, during, and after investigations
- b. Support thinking and argue ideas with evidence
(Elinor and her friends discuss their observations with their classmates)

SEP8. Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information

- a. Obtain information through discussing prior knowledge and observations with experts including teachers or knowledgeable adults
- c. Describe observable phenomena using adjectives and labels
- f. Share findings and explanations (correct or incorrect) through a variety of methods (Elinor and her friends obtain information about living vs non-living things through prior knowledge, observations and discussions with Mz. Mole then they share their explanations with their classmates).

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POLISH DRAFT: January 31, 2010

RECORD DRAFT: February 10, 2020

It's morning recess and Ari is entertaining his friends (ELINOR, OLIVE, KOA, TITO, CAMILLA) with some of his favourite knock-knock jokes.

5 ARI 5
Yes, they do say WHOOOO.

11 ARI 11
Says me, that's who!

13 ARI 13
I made a rock smile? Really?

14 OLIVE 14
YES! Look...

Olive points, Ari looks and sees ANGLE ON: a little rock (it fits in Ari's hand) with a striation that looks like a smile. Olive traces the smile with her trunk so it's clear.

15 ARI 15
Wow!
(Ari picks up the rock and looks it over)
This is a really nice rock, it's so smooth and just the right size and it has a smile...
(He holds the rock up)
Wanna hear another joke, rock?
(He makes the rock nod)
You do? Okay here goes.
Knock! Knock!
(rock voice, talking out the side of his mouth, funny voice)
Who's there?
(Ari voice)
Nose.
(rock voice)
Nose who?
(Ari voice)
I NOSE plenty more knock-knock jokes!
(raucous rock laughter)
Ahahahahahahah-heheh...

The other kids <SFX: LAUGH> too.

16 ARI (CONT'D) 16
Rock, we are going to be good friends. I will call you... Rocky.

<SFX: DING, DING, DING!!> The kids run towards the school. Mz. Mole opens the door and they run inside.

17 ARI (CONT'D) 17
That's the school bell! C'mon Rocky, lets go inside!

Ari and Rocky follow the rest of the kids

2. INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

As the kids file in, Ari introduces Rocky to Mz. Mole.

[illegible]

19 MZ. MOLE 19
(smiling along with the
joke)
Well, hello! Pleased to meet you,
Rocky. I hope you have a good time
in our class.

20 ARI 20
Oh, don't worry, Mz. Mole. If
there's one thing Rocky knows how
to do, it's have a good time.

And so, they do!

3. ARI/ROCKY FUN MUSICAL MONTAGE

Ari has all kinds of fun playing with Rocky in class.

- He builds a block-tower castle and puts Rocky on top!
- He walks Rocky around the class plants, like he's a jungle explorer.
- He reads Rocky a book - about Rocks!
- He lies on his back on the circle carpet and zooms Rocky through the air like a super-hero.

END MONTAGE

4. INT. CLASSROOM (TABLE) -- DAY

Ari is sitting at a table with his lunch-box and Rocky.

21 ARI 21

And now, my favorite time of all -
SNACK TIME. Let's see what Dad
packed in my lunch-box today.
(to Rocky)
Mom and Dad always take such good
care of me.
(He looks in his lunch-
box.)
Mmmmm. Pickles. My FAVORITE!
(He starts to munch a
pickle, then glances at
Rocky.)
(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

Are you hungry too, Rocky? Maybe
you don't have a Mom and Dad to
pack you a lunch box, like I do.
(he digs in his lunch box)
Don't worry, buddy. I'll take care
of you. My Dad always packs extra
snacks. You can have some of mine.

He holds a pickle in front of Rocky's little smile, but
nothing happens. At that moment Elinor and Olive happen by
and notice.

22 OLIVE 22
Whatcha doing, Ari?

23 ARI 23
Just taking care of Rocky. Like my
Mom and Dad take care of me.

24 ELINOR 24
Aww, that's so nice.

Olive and Elinor join Ari at the table with their snacks.

25 ARI 25
I'm trying to feed him, but he
doesn't seem very hungry.

26 OLIVE 26
Maybe he doesn't like pickles?

27 ARI 27
(getting nervous)
I guess not, but if I'm going to
take good care of Rocky, I *gotta*
feed him. What DOES a rock like to
eat?

28 OLIVE 28
I dunno, maybe mud pies?

29 ELINOR 29
Or maybe... nothing?
(thoughtfully)
Maybe rocks don't eat. Are they
even alive?

30 OLIVE 30
Good question. I've never thought
about that before.

31 ARI 31

But rocks are part of nature, and
lots of things in nature ARE alive.
So... maybe rocks are too?

32 OLIVE 32
Dun, dun, dunnnn, sounds like a
mystery. Is Rocky the rock alive -
or not?

33 ELINOR 33
Let's figure it out! We can start
by comparing Rocky to things we
know ARE alive.

34 OLIVE 34
Good idea. We can see how they're
different and how they're the same.
How about we compare Rocky
to...ARI!

Olive takes out her notebook and starts a chart with two columns - then she draws a picture of Ari at the top of one column, and a picture of Rocky on the top of the other.

ARI
Good choice. I am definitely ALIVE!

Ari eats a pickle. <SFX: MUNCH, MUNCH>.

36 ELINOR 36
Okay. First thing, Ari is REALLY
good at eating. Rocky, not so much.

37 OLIVE 37
Eating, got it.

ANGLE ON: Olive draws a pickle under Ari and not under Rocky.

CROSSFADE TO:

5. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

They continue their observations.

38 ARI 38

Ok, what else do things that are
alive do?

39 ELINOR 39
You just did it right now.

Elinor is excited, she starts hopping.

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59	ARI	59
	Yeah. But did you see how I caught Rocky! Pretty cool, right?	
60	OLIVE	60
	But wait a minute, trees don't move either.	
61	ELINOR	61
	They do, when they grow.	
62	ARI	62
	Hmm, that's right. But do rocks grow?	
63	ELINOR	63
	I don't know. It's hard to tell. I've never seen a rock grow.	
64	ARI	64
	I've never seen a tree grow either, I just know they do it..very sloooooowly.	
At this moment Mz. Mole walks by.		
65	OLIVE	65
	I've never noticed Mz. Mole growing either. And she is DEFINITELY alive.	
66	ELINOR	66
	Let's ask her.	
The kids run over to Mz. Mole.		
67	ELINOR (CONT'D)	67
	Mz. Mole, do you grow?	
68	MZ. MOLE	68
	Well, only around the tummy when I've had a cheesy bagel at Mr. Raccoon's bakery.	
69	OLIVE	69
	No, we mean do you grow taller, like a tree does?	
70	ARI	70
	Or like me! I'm growing all the time, that's what my Mom says.	

71 MZ. MOLE 71
Yes, you kids are all growing fast,
Ari. But I'm not growing anymore.
Grown-ups don't grow.

72 ELINOR 72
Because you're all grown UP!

73 MZ. MOLE 73
That's right, Elinor. But I used
to grow, when I was a little kid
like you.

CU: Ari is gobsmacked.

74 ARI 74
You...were...a little KID!!????

75 MZ. MOLE 75
(laughing)
A looong time ago, Ari. But why
all the questions about growing?

76 ELINOR 76
We're trying to figure out if Rocky
is alive or not.

Ari holds up his rock.

77 ARI 77
So we can take care of him, just
like our parents take care of us.

78 OLIVE 78
It's trickier than we thought.

79 MZ. MOLE 79
I'll bet. How are you figuring it
out?

80 OLIVE 80
We thought about what alive things
do, like eat. And move or grow.

ANGLE ON: She shows Mz. Mole her chart.

81 ELINOR 81
And then we wrote down if Rocky
does them too.

82 MZ. MOLE 82
This is a wonderful investigation,
young scientists. Do you want to
include MORE scientists?

89 MZ. MOLE 89
Okay, let's try and figure this
out.
(MORE)

MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)
(to the three main kids) Now, tell
us all about your observations.

Olive steps forward with her chart.

90 OLIVE 90
To figure out if a rock is alive we
decided to compare Rocky to things
we KNOW are alive...like
butterflies and trees.

91 ELINOR 91
And ARI!
(Ari does a flip (or a
Fortnite dance?)
(giggling)
Ari is very alive.

92 OLIVE 92
And this is what we found. Rocky
can't do things that living things
can do. Like eat.

Olive points to her picture of the pickle under Ari.

93 ARI 93
I can definitely do that!

<SFX: AGREEMENT, YOU SURE CAN WALLA FROM THE CLASS>

94 ELINOR 94
And MOVE...like Ari and other
animals do.

She points to the picture of the waving hand under Ari.

95 ARI 95
Check out this move.

Ari moonwalks.

96 OLIVE 96
And we also wondered if a rock
grows... like a tree.

Olive draws a picture of a small tree and then a bigger tree
under the hand image.

97 ELINOR 97
Or like us kids.

98 ARI 98
Or like Mz. Mole..
(leans in to whisper)
(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

Did you know she used to be a
little kid too?

The kids buzz with shock <SFX: WHUUU??>

99	ARI (CONT'D) (conspiratorially) I knooooow.	99
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Tito takes a small pebble from his pocket and hold it up.

100	TITO I've had my lucky rock since I was little - and it hasn't grown at all.	100
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101	OLIVE But you've grown, right Tito?	101
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102	TITO (proudly, even though he's small) I sure have!	102
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103	ELINOR So it looks like rocks don't eat...or move or grow.	103
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104	OLIVE Like living things do.	104
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105	MZ. MOLE Nice observations, you three, I like the way you think. So what does the class think now. Is Rocky the Rock alive?	105
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Everyone goes and stands on the "No" side. <SFX: NO, DON'T
THINK SO WALLA>

106	ELINOR Okay, so I guess we all think that Rocky ISN'T alive.	106
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107	OLIVE But - Rocky is still...AWESOME!	107
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The kids <SFX: CHEER> and when it dies down we have a little
tender moment between Ari and Rocky.

108	ARI (relieved, to Rocky) Whew! (MORE)	108
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I guess that means I don't have to figure out what to feed you, Rocky. But don't worry friend, I'll still take care of you.

WIDEN: Olive puts her arm around Ari's shoulder.

111 MZ. MOLE 111
Very nicely put.

Elinor, Olive and Ari sing the song as we see a montage of the three of them playing with Rocky outside in nature, along with birds, bees, butterflies and all kinds of living things.

ALL - All of nature needs our care,
The fish in the ocean,
The birds in the air,
The plants and the mountains,
The rivers and the sea,
All of nature is our home,
A special place for you and me

ARI - My friend Rocky,
Might be a rock,
ELINOR: But rocks are part of
nature,
Even if they don't talk,
OLIVE: If we pay attention,
To all our nature friends,
(MORE)

ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI (CONT'D)

ALL: Then we'll have a wonderful
world,
For us all to live in! With ROCKY!

BACK IN THE CLASS: Ari holds Rocky aloft triumphantly.

113 MZ. MOLE 113
Now let's all go outside and make
our OWN nature friends - with
rocks, or plants or puddles or
anything! Ari and Rocky, lead the
way!!

Ari runs out the door holding Rocky aloft.

114 ARI 114
Follow me - and ROCKY!!

7. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Ari, Olive and Elinor and their friends are paying close
attention to all kinds of interesting things in Nature.
Elinor spots a butterfly.

115 ELINOR 115
Hi, little butterfly, wanna be
nature friends? Whoo-hoo, you sure
can flutter.

Elinor bounces after the butterfly, as Olive is in mid-
conversation with a tree.

116 OLIVE 116
Hey tree, now that we're friends,
mind if I give you a hug?

Olive hugs the tree.

117 OLIVE (CONT'D) 117
Ahhhh, that feels so good.

118 ARI 118
Well, I'm sticking with Rocky. He
never gets tired of my jokes. Knock-
knock, Rocky.
(Rocky's voice)
Who's there?
(Ari voice)
Ari.
(Rocky voice)
Ari who?
(Ari voice)
(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

Ari-n't you glad I didn't say knock-knock again?

(a beat then)

Rocky? Don't you think that's funny?

Ari looks closely at Rocky, CU: he's upside down.

119	ARI (CONT'D)	119
	Wha-oh, let me fix that for ya, buddy.	

Ari turns him right side up.

120	ARI (CONT'D)	120
	(Rocky's voice)	
	Ahhh, that's better, thanks Ari.	
	AHAHAHAHAHAHA - that joke never gets old.	

CU: On Rocky's cute smiling face.

IRIS OUT,

THE END

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