

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW129 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE - WALKING ON SNOW

Written by

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FOLLOWS: THE UNSINKABLE LYNX

CURRICULUM: Mz. Mole and the kids take a close look at the ptarmigan, a chicken-sized bird that has built in snowshoes for walking on top of the snow.

LS2: Animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs.

FIRST DRAFT: December 20, 2019

1. INT. MZ. MOLE'S CLASSROOM -- WINTER DAY

Looking out the classroom window, a bird feeder hangs nearby. The scenery is blanketed in white snow. A cardinal lands on the bird feeder and quickly flies away.

Inside the classroom, Mz. Mole puts on some strange fluffy white snowshoes over her feet.

1	OLIVE	
	Mz. Mole? What are those?	1

2 MZ. MOLE 2
Oh, I'm just putting on my
ptarmigan feet before I go outside.

The kids all look at each other, confused.

3 ARI 3
Your what?

4 MZ. MOLE 4
My ptarmigan feet. I made them
myself.

5 ELINOR 5
Mz. Mole, (giggling) what are
ptarmigan feet?

6 MZ. MOLE 6
Oh, let me show you.

Mz. Mole takes out her storybook and opens the front cover. CLOSE ON the storybook which shows a ptarmigan, a brown bird about the size of a chicken, standing on the ground in the summer arctic tundra.

2. THE STORYBOOK

The storybook comes to life and the ptarmigan begins to walk around, pecking at berries on a short bush.

7 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 7
A ptarmigan is a bird, an amazing
bird that lives in very cold
places. In the summer, the
ptarmigan is brown, and its feet
have no feathers. But watch this!

With a quick flap of its wings, the ptarmigan's hops up on a rock. As it stands, its brown feathers gradually become white.

(MORE)

MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)

Every fall, this bird transforms to become a champion of the snow.

8 ELINOR 8
It changed color!

9 MZ. MOLE 9
That's right! Before the winter
snows arrive, the ptarmigan grows
white feathers all over its body.
And look at its feet!

CLOSE ON the ptarmigan's feet grow white feathers all over, and its toenails grow a bit longer.

10 OLIVE 10
They're turning white!

11 MZ. MOLE 11

That's right! The ptarmigan grows
fluffy feathers all over its feet,
and its toenails grow longer as
well.

12	ARI	12
	Why does it do that?	

Snowflakes begin to fall and the scenery turns white with snow. The ptarmigan hops down from the rock onto the snow and begins walking. The white bird now blends in with the snowy backdrop, and it leaves footprints in the snow as it walks.

13 MZ. MOLE 13

Bigger feet make it easier to walk
on top of the snow. It's like a
built-in pair of snowshoes!

3. INT. CLASSROOM -- WINTER DAY

Mz. Mole closes the storybook, picks up a bag of birdseed and heads outside.

14 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 14
Now, let's see how my ptarmigan
feet work!

Out the window, the kids watch Mz. Mole walk on the snow and fill the bird feeder with seed. The kids all <SFX: LAUGH>.

END