ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWW129 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, 2020
SECOND DRAFT: January 14, 2020
POLISH DRAFT: January 21, 2020

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 1
Mz. Mole? What are those?

2 MZ. MOLE 2
These are my ptarmigan feet, for walking on the snow.

The kids all look at each other, confused.

3 GAEL 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, they are so much fun. Let's read about them!

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 with amazing feet. In the summer, the ptarmigan's feet have no feathers. But watch this!

With a quick flap of its wings, the ptarmigan hops up on a rock. The pages flip quickly creating a flipbook style of animation. Paper cutout snowflakes begin to fall. As the bird stands, its brown feathers gradually become white and fluffy.

8 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 8
When it starts to snow, the ptarmigan changes! What do you see?

9 ELINOR (V.O.) 9
It turned white!

10 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 10
That’s right! The ptarmigan grows white feathers all over its body. But my favorite part is the feet! What changes do you notice?

CLOSE ON the ptarmigan’s feet. In a flipbook style, the feet grow white feathers all over, and its toenails grow a bit longer.

11 OLIVE (V.O.) 11
Wow! It's feet are bigger now.

12 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 12
Yes! The ptarmigan grows fluffy feathers on its feet, and its toenails grow longer.

13 GAEL (V.O.) 13
Why does it do that?

Cutting to a wider view, the scenery is now 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.

14 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 14
Having bigger feet makes it easier to walk on top of the snow. It’s like a built-in pair of snowshoes!

15 ELINOR (V.O.) 15
Just like Gael. He has huge paws.

3. INT. CLASSROOM -- WINTER DAY
Mz. Mole closes the storybook, picks up a bag of birdseed and heads outside.

16 MZ. MOLE 16
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. <SFX: KID WALLA Wow! Cool! Look at that!> End