

ELINOR WONDERERS WHY

EP 130B "Ears to You"

By: Tom Berger

Logline: One day at the lake, Elinor and her friends notice that certain animals don't appear to have ears and they wonder how they can hear without them.

Curriculum Goals:

LS2: Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs. (The kids observe and experiment to discover that different animals have unique hearing depending on their needs and environment)

SEP1: Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena (Elinor wonders how various animals can hear when they don't appear to have ears)

MAIN CHARACTERS: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mz. Mole

SECONDARY CHARACTERS: Deputy Mouse

PROPS: Towels, misc. beach props (water bottles, hats, beach toys, umbrellas, etc.), Olive's satchel and Nature Book, swim suits, green frog, brown frog x2.

FIRST DRAFT: January 9, 2020

SECOND DRAFT: February 4, 2020

POLISH DRAFT: March 02, 2020

RECORD DRAFT: March 05, 2020

7	ARI (TO OLIVE)	7
	No way, Olive. You can't do it.	
	They stand off, face-to-face (good-naturedly).	
8	OLIVE / ARI	8
	Can! Can! Can! / Can't! Can't! Can't!	
9	ELINOR	9
	(Giggling) What are you two talking about?	
10	OLIVE	10
	Ari thinks you can't hear sounds underwater, but I think you can.	
	Ari covers his ears with his hands.	
11	ARI	11
	You can't hear things with all that water. It's like covering your ears.	
12	MZ. MOLE	12
	Well now, this <i>sounds</i> like an interesting question.	
13	ARI (STILL COVERING HIS EARS)	13
	What's that, Mz. Mole?! I can't hear you.	
	Elinor <GIGGLES> and moves Ari's hands away from his ears.	
14	ELINOR	14
	How about now?	
15	ARI	15
	Oh, now I hear you. See? I can't hear with covered ears.	
16	OLIVE	16
	But maybe being underwater isn't the same thing.	
17	ELINOR	17
	Ari, Olive... we don't have to argue about it. The lake is right there. We can go investigate and find out.	
18	OLIVE	18
	Good idea, Elinor!	

26 OLIVE 26
(Laughing) Ari! *I'm the one who
said you can hear underwater, you
said we couldn't.*

27 ARI 27
I did? Well it's not that easy to
hear, so I guess we were both
right.

27 The kids <GIGGLE>. Ari turns his head sideways and shakes 27
water from his ear.

28 ARI (CONT'D) 28
Ugh. I got water inside my ear, and
now I can't hear as well OUT of the
water.

Ari starts to hop around. Just then, a curious GREEN FROG swims past Olive. She <GASPS>.

29 OLIVE 29
Look, it's a little frog. That's so
cute.

30	ARI (HOPPING)	30
	Water! Get! Out! Of! My! Ear!	

Ari hops around as Elinor and Olive look on, smiling. Suddenly, a <RIBBIT> from the beach gets the kids' attention. They turn to see the green frog hopping along the sand.

31 ELINOR 31
Look, the frog is hopping around
now.

32 OLIVE 32
It sure is.

33 ELINOR 33
Hey, speaking of ears... I never noticed before, but do frogs have ears?

34 ARI (STILL JUMPING) 34
If they do, how do they keep water
out of them? Ack!

Elinor looks after the frog in the distance and squints.

35 ELINOR 35
It doesn't look like it has ears.
But it's hard to tell from so far
away.

36 OLIVE 36

Why don't we get a closer look?

I know! Let's play Follow The Frog!

46 OLIVE 46
Wasn't me either. It must have been-

Olive is interrupted by a <RIBBIT>! The kids' ears perk up.

47 OLIVE (POINTING) (CONT'D) 47
The frog! It's that way, let's go!

Following the source of the sound, the kids bound off the log and run towards the edge of the grass surrounding the lake.

48 ARI 48
That ribbit came from around here,
but I don't see the frog.

Another <RIBBIT> gets their attention. Elinor perks up her ears, turning them towards the vegetation.

49 ELINOR 49
It's in the grass somewhere. Follow
That Frog! Ribbit!

Elinor drops into a crouch and bounds off into the grass, followed by her friends, all happily <RIBBITING> and hopping.

4. EXT. TALL GRASS - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

The kids hop into the clearing, catching up to the green frog who sits calmly on a SMALL STONE.

50 ELINOR 50
Aha! There it is!

51 OLIVE (NODDING) 51
I heard the frog sounds because my
ears helped me hear from far away.

52 ARI 52
Yeah, I could hear it too.

Ari wiggles his ears and the girls <GIGGLE>. They're interrupted by a <RIBBIT>. The gang leans in for a closer look. **CLOSE UP** on the frog reveals it, indeed, doesn't seem to have ears!

53 ELINOR 53
It doesn't look like the frog has
any ears.

54 ARI (AMAZED) 54
You're right. It doesn't have big
ears like Olive, or long ears like
you, or...
(MORE)

55 ELINOR 55
That's sooo interesting!
 (a thought occurs)
Hmm... Frogs don't seem to have
ears. But if they don't have ears,
does that mean frogs can't hear?

56 OLIVE 56
I think I heard another ribbit.

57 ARI 57
Check it out - it's a frog party.

The kids <GIGGLE> and watch as the green frog <SFX:RIBBIT FROG SOUND> and the brown frogs <RIBBIT> back in unison. This repeats. (NOTE: It should be obvious the frogs are communicating with each other).

The frogs look up at Elinor, surprised to see the kids.

The frogs are startled by her and they hop away.

62 OLIVE 62
Too bad they went away before we
could find out.
 (MORE)

OLIVE (CONT'D)

They sure seem to have heard me. I
think I scared them away.

63 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 63
Kids! Snack Time!

Ari cups a hand around an ear towards the lake.

64 ARI 64
Snacks?! I definitely heard that!

His stomach <GURGLES>.

65 ARI (PATTING HIS BELLY) (CONT'D) 65
I think my tummy did too, c'mon!

The girls share a <GIGGLE> and follow Ari back to the beach.

5. EXT. LAKE - SHORE, BY THE TOWELS - CONTINUOUS

The kids arrive back at the shore as students get JUICE BOXES
and FRUIT SLICES from Mz. Mole. The gang approaches and Mz.
Mole hands them SNACKS (which Ari quickly devours).

66 MZ. MOLE 66
How did the investigation go? Did
you figure out if you can hear
underwater?

67 ARI 67
We were both right, you CAN hear
under water, only just not as well.

68 MZ. MOLE 68
Very interesting.

Olive and Ari share a <LAUGH>. Mz. Mole notices Elinor is
deep in thought.

69 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 69
You look like you have another
question, Elinor.

70 ELINOR 70
Well, after we did our experiment,
we followed some frogs and we saw
them talking to each other.

71 MZ. MOLE 71
Mmm. Ok...

72 ELINOR 72
But it doesn't look like frogs have
ears. So how could they hear each
other?

73	ARI	73
	Yah! They don't have big ears, long ears or...	
	(demonstrating)	
	Wiggly ears!	

Mz. Mole <GIGGLES> and looks at the kids while they ponder for a moment. Mz. Mole smiles, she knows what to do.

74 MZ. MOLE 74
I wonder... Have you ever noticed
what *my* ears look like?

The gang looks at her as if for the first time. Her head is smooth and seemingly ear-less! The kids are shocked!

75 ARI 75
Mz. Mole, we hadn't noticed before,
but it looks like you don't have
ears, either!

76 OLIVE 76
But we know you can hear us.

77 MZ. MOLE 77
I sure can, Olive.

Mz. Mole parts the fur on the side of her head as the kids lean in. **SCIENCE CU:** Mz. Mole has small lobe-less ears on the sides of her head surrounded by fur.

78 ELINOR 78
(Gasp!) You *do* have ears!
(squinting)
They're so small, I can barely see
them.

79 MZ. MOLE 79

That's because they're different
from yours. You see, not every
animal hears the same way as you.

80 ELINOR (CONSIDERING) 80
That's so interesting! Maybe frogs
do have ears, but we didn't see
them. They don't look like ours
because they are different from
ours.

Mz. Mole nods and releases the fur around her ear, covering it again.

81 MZ. MOLE 81
Exactly! You all have ears that are
easy to see. Big ones, long ones,
or...

She looks at Ari who wiggles his ears.

82 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 82
(Giggles)... or wiggly ones. But
some animals have ears that are
much harder to spot... like mine.

83 ELINOR 83
Why are your ears hidden by fur Mz.
Mole?

84 MZ. MOLE 84
Moles, like me, live in tunnels
underground. My ears are small and
protected by fur so dirt doesn't
get into them.

85 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI 85
Coooooooooooool...

Olive considers.

86 OLIVE 86
If Mz. Mole's ears are good for
hearing underground, maybe frogs
have ears that are good for hearing
underwater?

87 ELINOR 87
That's a good idea, Olive. Maybe
you're right.

Suddenly, a <RIBBIT> gets the kids attention. They look around and spot the green frog hopping along the beach.

88 ARI 88
Let's look at the frog again!
Thanks for the snacks, Mz. Mole.

89 MZ. MOLE 89
You're welcome... come back to tell
me what you discover.

90 ELINOR 90
Let's Follow That Frog!

6. EXT. LAKE - SHORE, LARGE ROCK - CONTINUOUS

91 ELINOR 91
Look at that round patch of skin. I
hadn't noticed it before. Could
that be the ear?

93 ARI 93
Maybe.... that patch of skin is
covering the hole?

94 ELINOR 94
Gasp! Maybe the frog's ear is
behind it!

95 OLIVE 95
But why? Why would it cover its
ear?

96 ARI 96
I'll get a closer look.

Ari puts his head underwater, and he looks at the frog swim.
After a beat, he comes back up.

97 ARI (JUMPING AROUND) (CONT'D) 97
Ack! I got water in my ear again!

Elinor watches Ari jump around and realizes something...

98 ELINOR 98
I know! Maybe their ears are
covered to keep water out!

The green frog hops back out of the water to rejoin the brown frogs. The kids lean in and a **SCIENCE CU** shows WATER DROPS running down the patch of skin.

99 ELINOR (CONT'D) 99
That's it! Look, no water is
getting in.

The frogs <RIBBIT> back and forth, as earlier.

100 OLIVE 100
You're right, Elinor! We figured it
out. Woo hoo!

The kids run off excitedly.

7. EXT. LAKE - BY THE TOWELS - CONTINUOUS

Mz. Mole is reading a NATURE BOOK on her towel when the kids
run in and drop down next to her.

101 ELINOR 101
Mz. Mole! We think the frog *does*
have ears, but they're covered by a
patch of skin.

102 OLIVE 102
Yeah, the patch of skin keeps water
from going into the ear.

103 ARI 103
But they can still hear. We heard
them talking to each other.

104 MZ. MOLE 104
Well, aren't you all the most
clever scientists. Here, have a
look...

As Mz. Mole shows them the book, the illustrations come alive
with SIMPLE ANIMATION that shows a FROG hopping in and out of
water.

This seems like it could be simplified a bit. Could she say,
"A

105 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 105
Animals need to hear in all
different kinds of places so their
ears work in different ways to help
them do that. Frog ears help them
hear both underwater and out of the
water.

BOOK SHOWS: A FISH underwater and a BIRD flies in the air.

106 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 106
Fish live underwater, and birds fly
in the air, so they both have
covered ears that can help them do
that.

Mz. Mole points to: ARI, ELINOR and OLIVE'S EARS.

107 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 107
Just like how your ears help you
hear, and do things that rabbits
and bats and elephants do.

108 ELINOR 108
That's so amazing!

109 ARI (PROUDLY) 109
My ears can help me laugh, too.

110 OLIVE (CONFUSED) 110
How can your ears make you laugh?

Ari proudly wiggles his ears and everyone <LAUGHS>. MUSIC
STARTS.

SONG:

111 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI (SINGING) 111
OLIVE: Big ears!
ELINOR: Tall ears!
ARI: Cute-and-wiggly bat ears!
ALL: If we counted all the kinds of
ears,
We'd be counting ears for years!

The frogs bounce past and the kids fall in line, hopping
along respectfully after them along the beach.

ELINOR: It seems like they have
none at all,
ARI: But frogs have ears that hear
your call.
OLIVE: You might be surprised to
know,
ALL: They work on water or below.

The frogs hop into and out of the lake, demonstrating.

OLIVE: Big ears!
ELINOR: Tall ears!
ARI: How-cool-are-these frog ears?
ALL: If we counted all the kinds of
ears,
We'd be counting ears for years!

The kids perk up, hold out and wiggle their ears.

ELINOR: Bunny ears are tall and
they,
Turn this way or that-a-way,
OLIVE: I can pull my big ears wide,
But they're hard to hide!

OLIVE: Big ears!
ELINOR: Tall ears!
ARI: Covered-by-fur mole ears!
ALL: If we counted all the kinds of
ears,
We'd be counting ears for years!

As the song ends, the kids talk with Mz. Mole again.

112	OLIVE	112
	Wow, we learned so much about ears today.	

113	ELINOR	113
	Yeah, we sure learned an EARFUL.	

As everyone <LAUGHS>, the frogs bounce past the kids again.
They drop into frog poses and hop after them <SFX: WALLA
C'MON! LAUGHING AND RIBBITING>. THE END.