

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWB INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE - BIRD SONAR

Written by

ROBERT SAMS

FOLLOWS: ECHOLOCATION

CURRICULUM: Bats are not the only flying animal to use sonar. A small bird called a swiftlet uses echolocation to safely navigate around dark caverns.

LS2: Animals have different parts that help them grow and survive.

FIRST DRAFT: February 6, 2020

Elinor and Olive are on a walk through the forest with Mz. Mole. As they pass a rocky slope, five small birds fly suddenly fly past and into a cave where they disappear into the darkness. The kids are amazed.

2 MZ. MOLE 2
They're flying home. They live in
this cave.

3 OLIVE 3
It's so dark. How do they see
anything?

Elinor's voice <SFX: ECHOES HELLO> around the cave.

Mz. Mole takes out her storybook and opens the front cover. CLOSE ON the storybook which shows a small bird called a swiftlet flying through the air.

The storybook comes to life and the swiftlet flies through the air <SFX: CHIRPING>.

The perspective changes as if from a camera strapped to the bird's back, so we are looking over its head as it flies from daylight into the darkness of a cave. The scene suddenly becomes monochromatic or dark blue to indicate the darkness of the cave.

7 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 7
The swiftlet builds its nest inside
a dark cave.

From the same perspective, we fly around some cave walls and low hanging rocky projections from the ceiling and then up onto a nest stuck to the side of the cave wall. The perspective changes, and we see the bird sitting on the nest.

8 ELINOR (V.O.) 8
How does the swiftlet see where
it's going?

9 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 9
It doesn't see with its eyes. It
hears with its ears.

The swiftlet flies out of the nest and around the cave. As it flies, it <SFX: CHIRPS REPEATEDLY> and navigates around the rocky walls and ceilings, twists and turns of the cave.

10 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 10
As it flies, it chirps and listens
for the sound echoing back. A
swiftlet *hears* its way around a
dark cave without running into
anything.

The swiftlet makes its way back to its nest where it perches once again. A pair of little baby swiftlets pop their heads up with their beaks open.

11 OLIVE (V.O.) 11
It has babies!

12 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 12
Well, what safer place to raise
your babies than in the darkness of
a cave?

3. EXT. FOREST -- SUMMER DAY

The birds fly back out of the cave past Mz. Mole, Elinor and Olive.

13 ELINOR AND OLIVE 13
(together) Amazing!

END