

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW131 Make Music, Naturally!

By: Kate Barris

Elinor's Question: How can we make our own musical instruments?

Logline: Elinor wants to find a way to make music with Sr. Tapir.

Curriculum Goals:

SEP1. Asking questions

a. Demonstrate curiosity about the greater world outside of their local environment

c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data

b. Use the 5 senses and simple tools to gather and record data

SEP6. Constructing explanations

a. Use background knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena

LS1. Understand that all living things have external parts a. Identify and describe the physical characteristics of a variety of animals and plants b. Record observations about an animal's or plant's physical appearance. (Elinor and her friends observe plants and animals that make rhythmic sounds.)

ND3. Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world.

(Elinor and her friends make percussion instruments inspired by what they've observed.)

Main Characters: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Sr. Tapir

Locations: Forest, Park

Props: Sticks, hollow log, bean pods, beans, Sr. Tapir's guitar

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1. EXT. THE PARK - DAY

A HIGH SHOT up in the trees on a LOVELY FALL DAY, so we see ORANGE, RED and YELLOW LEAVES ON THE TREES. And we HEAR LEAVES RUSTLING. From below, we hear...

1	ELINOR (O.S.)	1
	Are you ready to play a new game?	
2	OLIVE (O.S.)	2
	Sure, Elinor.	
3	ARI (O.S.)	3
	What is it?	

Push past the leaves and DISSOLVE TO:

2. EXT. THE PARK - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON: ELINOR. She has a smile on her face as she points to her ear.

4	ELINOR	4
	It's called "I Hear With My Big Ear".	

Olive and Ari react with curiosity.

5	ARI	5
	How does that work?	

6	ELINOR	6
	I tell you what I hear, and you have to find it.	

7	OLIVE	7
	Sounds like fun! (giggle)	

8	ARI	8
	So what do you hear Elinor?	

Elinor closes her eyes and listens. Her ears SWIVEL. We hear different sounds of the backyard - BIRDS TWEETING, CRICKETS CHIRPING, LEAVES RUSTLING.

9	ELINOR	9
	I hear with my big ear ... something that sounds like ... wind.	

Ari looks puzzled.

They hurry off to see him, as the <STRUMMING> continues.

3. EXT. THE PARK - CONTINUOUS

The kids rush up to Senor Tapir, who smiles and plays a final flourish on his guitar.

19 ELINOR 19
Senor Tapir!

20 SENOR TAPIR 20
Buenos Dias, amigos. So wonderful
to see you.

21 ELINOR 21
And wonderful to **hear** you.

Ari points back to where they were.

22 ARI 22

We heard you playing your guitar
from all the way over there.

23 OLIVE 23
So we had to come and say hello.

24 SENOR TAPIR 24
I'm so glad you did. Do you come
for the concert?

[illegible]

26 SENOR TAPIR 26

Si! The best kind of concert - the
kind where anyone can play along.

27 ARI 27
You mean play musical instruments?

Senor Tapir gives his guitar a <STRUM>.

28 SENOR TAPIR 28
Si! Is that not exciting?

Elinor, Olive and Ari look at each other.

29 ELINOR 29
Yes. Very exciting ... except ...

[illegible]

Senor Tapir nods and strokes his chin.

31 SENOR TAPIR 31
Ah. That could be a problem.

Olive blows a sigh in frustration, and makes a little <TOOT> with her trunk! She reacts with a smile.

32 OLIVE 32
Wait a second. I have my own built-in musical instrument.

Ari and Elinor look puzzled.

33 ELINOR 33
What do you mean, Olive?

34 OLIVE 34
I can trumpet with my trunk.

She demonstrates <TRUMPETING>.

Ari reacts by doing a back flip in surprise. Elinor <LAUGHS>

35 OLIVE (CONT'D) 35
Does that count?

Senor Tapir is delighted.

36 SENOR TAPIR 36
Si! There are many different ways to make music. You just have to use your imagination.

37 ELINOR 37
So if we all find musical instruments, we can play in your concert?

38 SENOR TAPIR 38
That would make me very happy!

Elinor, Ari and Olive look at each other as they head off.

39 ARI 39
How are we going get our own musical instruments?

40 ELINOR 40
Senor Tapir said to use our imagination.

41 OLIVE 41
That means we have to think very
hard.

They all concentrate on concentrating. (Fun faces and poses).
After a moment, Ari gives up.

42 ARI 42
My head is starting to hurt.

In the distance, we hear a <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP>.

Elinor reacts. Her ears swivel. Olive notices.

43 OLIVE 43
What is it Elinor?

44 ELINOR 44
I hear with my big ear ...
something that sounds like ... a
musical instrument.

45 ARI 45
Where?

46 ELINOR 46
It's coming from the forest. Let's
go!

4. EXT. FOREST - A LITTLE LATER

The three walk, looking around, with Elinor in the lead.

47 OLIVE 47
Are you sure you heard a musical
instrument?

48 ARI 48
I don't see any musicians around.

Suddenly, there it is again. <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP>.

Elinor stops. Ari and Olive bump into her.

49 OLIVE 49
Ooof!

50 ARI 50
Elinor. Why'd you stop?

51 ELINOR 51
There it is. Do you hear it?

They all listen. And then ... <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP>.

52 ARI 52
That tap-tap-tap sound?

53 OLIVE 53
It sounds kind of like a drummer
drumming on a wooden block.

54 ELINOR 54
But we don't see a drummer. So what
is it?

55 ARI 55
An *invisible* drummer?

56 ELINOR 56
(giggle) I don't think so.

57 OLIVE 57
Let's spread out and see if we can
find where it's coming from.

They walk in different directions. And then, we hear <TAP,
TAP-TAP, TAP>. Elinor points.

58 ELINOR 58
This way.

The others follow Elinor. And we hear, louder, a <TAP, TAP-
TAP, TAP>. Elinor looks up.

59 ELINOR (CONT'D) 59
I think it's up in this tree.

They look up.

ANGLE ON: A WOODPECKER hopping around on the side of the
tree, searching for the right spot.

60 ARI 60
All I see is a bird hopping around.

61 ELINOR 61
That little bird couldn't make
those loud tapping sounds. Could
it?

Olive reaches into her satchel and pulls out her NATURE BOOK.

62 OLIVE 62
Let's see what I can find out in my
nature book.

She opens her book and flips through some pages.

63 OLIVE (CONT'D) 63
 Hmm. No, not that. Oh! Maybe it's a
 woodpecker. Look.

CLOSE ON: Illustration in Olive's book shows a woodpecker
 poking its beak into tree bark.

64 OLIVE (CONT'D) 64
 It says a woodpecker's beak is so
 strong and hard, it can actually
 poke holes in the bark to get at
 insects underneath.

From the book, we go to the live woodpecker as it starts
 pecking at the tree with a very loud <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP>.

65 OLIVE (CONT'D) 65
And ... that makes a really loud
 tap-tap-tap sound.

66 ELINOR 66
 That's SO interesting!

Ari tap-tap-taps at Elinor's shoulder, so she turns to him.

67 ARI 67
 It's interesting. But we came here
 to find musical instruments for
 Senor Tapir's concert. Remember?

Elinor looks at Ari then up at the woodpecker.

68 ELINOR 68
 Hmmmm...

69 ARI 69
 Let's keep looking.

70 OLIVE 70
 And listening.

5. EXT. FURTHER IN THE FOREST - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

In a different part of the forest, they walk, with Elinor in
 the lead. Suddenly, she stops. Olive and Ari bump into her
 again.

71 OLIVE 71
 Oof.

72 ARI 72
Elinor? Why'd you stop again?

73 ELINOR 73
I hear with my big ear ...
something that sounds like
rattling.

They get very quiet and they hear a <RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE>.

74 OLIVE 74
Is someone playing maracas?

75 ARI 75
I don't know.(beat) What are
maracas?

Olive takes out her PAD AND PENCIL.

CLOSE ON: The pad as she draws a maraca shape.

76 OLIVE 76

They're these wooden instruments
that look like this. And they have
little beads or something inside.
So when you shake them they sound
like...

<RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE.>

77 OLIVE (CONT'D) 77
Just like that.

Ari looks around.

78 ARI 78
I don't see anyone playing maracas.

79 ELINOR 79
Then where's it coming from?

They stop and listen for a second. And they hear it again.
<RATTLE RTTLE RATTLE>. In unison they all point in the same
direction.

80 ELINOR (CONT'D) 80
Over there.

CLOSE ON: Bean pods blowing in the wind. <RATTLE RATTLE>

Elinor, Ari and Olive approach and observe the bean pods waving and <RATTLING>.

81	OLIVE Bean pods?	81
82	ARI I don't get it. Beans aren't hard enough to make a rattling sound. They're soft and green and yummy. Elinor touches a pod.	82
83	ELINOR But these pods aren't green and soft. They're all dried out, so they're brown and hard. She shakes the bean pods. They <RATTLE>.	83
84	OLIVE So maybe the beans inside are hard and dried out too.	84
85	ELINOR We need more observations! Elinor splits a pod open. CLOSE ON: The beans are dried out and brown.	85
86	ELINOR (CONT'D) You're right, Olive. They're just as hard as the pods. That's SO interesting! Ari frowns at her.	86
87	ARI What's so interesting about hard, dry beans in hard dry bean pods?	87
88	ELINOR Well, because the beans are hard and the bean pods are hard, they rattle when they shake in the wind.	88
89	ARI So...?	89
90	ELINOR They may be part of the solution to our problem.	90
91	OLIVE You mean finding musical instruments?	91

All of a sudden, Olive gets it and smiles and nods.

92 OLIVE (CONT'D) 92
Oh I get it.

Ari looks from one to the other.

93 ARI 93
What? What do you get that I don't get?

94 ELINOR 94
Well, we thought we heard someone playing maracas, but it turned out to be dried beans rattling in bean pods.

95 ARI 95
... Right.

96 OLIVE 96
And before, we thought we heard a drummer, but it was a woodpecker hitting wood with its strong, hard beak.

Ari is following it - then the light goes on.

97 ARI 97
Right. ... Right! So if we find something strong and hard and use it to hit something wooden, we can sound like a drummer.

98 ELINOR 98
And if we collect some of these bean pods, we can sound like we're playing maracas.

99 OLIVE 99
So we can play in Senor Tapir's concert! Let's go!

They scatter.

6. EXT. FOREST - FOLLOWING

A short montage: 1) Ari tests out some different sticks that he finds on the ground.

2) Olive finds a hollowed out log and holds it up for Ari. Ari tries tapping his sticks against the log <TAP, TAP-TAP TAP>. He settles on the one that gives him the best sound.

3) Elinor picks different bean pods and tests them for their rattle. She finds one that sounds really good <RATTLE, RATTLE>. She smiles.

4) They unite with their "instruments" and head back toward the park.

7. EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor, Ari and Olive run to Sr. Tapir, strumming his guitar.

100	ELINOR	100
	Senor Tapir! Are we too late for the concert?	

101	SENIOR TAPIR	101
	No Amigos. You're just in time. Did you find instruments to play?	

102	ELINOR	102
	We sure did. We have Olive trumpeting on her trunk.	

Olive raises her trunk and <TRUMPETS!>

103	OLIVE	103
	(trumpets then giggles) And we have Ari drumming on a wooden log.	

Ari does a little <DRUMMING RIFF> tapping out rhythm with two sticks on the hollowed out log.

104	ARI	104
	And Elinor on Bean Pod Maracas.	

Elinor dances and shakes her bean pods <RHYTHMIC RATTLE>.

Senor Tapir applauds enthusiastically.

105	SENIOR TAPIR	105
	Wonderful, Amigos! Shall we make some music?	

Elinor, Ari and Olive react with excited <WALLA>.

SONG: MAKE MUSIC, NATURALLY

106 SR. TAPIR/ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 106

*Sr. Tapir: There is music all
around us
From the birds and from the bees
From the babbling of a brook
And the whistling of a breeze
If you want to make some music
You can play along with me
Use your own imagination
And make music, naturally!
(spoken) Join in amigos!*

*Ari: I'll tap these sticks just
like a drum,
S. Tapir: Tap along with me while I
strum*

Ari does a little <DRUM RIFF> using the sticks on the log, as Senor Tapir strums.

*Elinor: Hear the rattling sound I
make
When I give these beans a shake.*

Elinor shakes the bean pods and dances to the rhythm. Senor Tapir responds with a guitar flourish.

*Olive: With my trunk I'll play
along
Adding trumpet to our song.*

Olive does a jazzy little "trumpet" solo on her trunk.

*ALL: If you want to make some music
You can play along with me
Use your own imagination
And make music, naturally!*

107 SENOR TAPIR 107

*There's nothing better than making
music - naturally! Si Amigos?*

108 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 108

Si, Senor Tapir!

109 ELINOR 109

Let's play it again!

110

SR. TAPIR/ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI

110

*ALL: If you want to make some music
You can play along with me
Use your own imagination
And make music, naturally!*

As they sing and play the final verse again, we ...

FADE OUT.