

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, audience members (no lines)

Locations: Forest, Park

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

FIRST DRAFT May 15, 2019

SECOND DRAFT June 5, 2019

1. EXT. THE PARK - DAY

A HIGH SHOT up in the trees. We hear <BIRDS TWEETING, LEAVES RUSTLING, CRICKETS CHIRPING>, and then we hear...

1	ELINOR (O.S.)	1	
	Are you ready to play a new game?		
2	OLIVE (O.S.)	2	*
	I love new games!		*
3	ARI (O.S.)	3	*
	Me too. What is it, Elinor?		*

2. EXT. THE PARK - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON: ELINOR. She smiles 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	OLIVE	5	*
	Oooh! I have a big ear. I have two of them.		*

6	ARI	6	*
	What if I don't have a big ear?		*

7	ELINOR	7	*
	Okay, let's call it "I Hear with My Own Ear."		*

8	ARI	8	*
	Great. So ... How does it work?		*

9	ELINOR	9	
	I tell you what I hear, and you have to find what's making the sound.		

10	OLIVE	10	
	Sounds like fun! (giggle)		

Elinor closes her eyes. Her ears SWIVEL. <BIRDS TWEETING, LEAVES RUSTLING, CRICKETS CHIRPING>.

11	ELINOR	11	*
	Okay, let's go. I hear with my own ear something that sounds like ...		

Suddenly we hear <CRUNCH, CRUNCH, CRUNCH>

12 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Crunching!

Olive and Elinor look puzzled. <CRUNCH>

They turn and look at Ari, who has HALF A CRACKER in his hand and is clearly crunching the other half.

13 OLIVE
It's Ari eating a cracker!

Elinor and Olive <giggle> and Ari looks a little guilty.

14 ARI
Oops. Sorry.

15 ELINOR
It's okay, Ari. But do you both get
the idea of how the game works?

Ari nods, finishing his cracker. Olive nods too.

16 OLIVE
Yup. Can I try one?

17 ELINOR
Sure, Olive. What do you hear with
your ***big*** ear?

Olive <GIGGLES> then listens.

18 OLIVE
 (giggle) I hear, with my big ear,
 something that sounds like ...

Suddenly there's a loud MUSICAL STRUM ON A GUITAR.

19 OLIVE (CONT'D)
 Music??

20 ARI
Where's that coming from?

Surprised, the three of them look around to find the source of the music.

ON: SEÑOR TAPIR, who is <STRUMMING> his guitar in the park by
THE GLOBE (or A GAZEBO).

21 ELINOR
It's Señor Tapir. Come on!

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

3. EXT. THE PARK - CONTINUOUS

The kids rush up to Señor Tapir, who smiles and plays another flourish on his guitar. *

22 ELINOR 22
Señor Tapir! *

23 SEÑOR TAPIR 23
Buenos Dias, amigos. So wonderful
to see you. *

He plays a final flourish. *

24 ELINOR 24
And wonderful to **hear** you.

Ari points back to where they were.

25 ARI 25
We heard you playing your guitar
from all the way over there.

26 OLIVE 26
So we had to come and say hello.

27 SEÑOR TAPIR 27
I'm so glad you did. Are you coming
to the concert later? *

28 ELINOR 28
There's going to be a concert??

29 SEÑOR TAPIR 29
Si! The best kind of concert - the
kind where anyone can play along.

30 ARI 30
How do we "play along"? *

Señor Tapir gives his guitar a <STRUM>.

31 SEÑOR TAPIR 31
With musical instruments! It's
exciting, isn't it? *

Elinor, Olive and Ari look at each other.

32 ELINOR 32
Very exciting ... except ...

33	ARI	33	
	We don't have any instruments to play.		
	Señor Tapir nods and strokes his chin.		
34	SEÑOR TAPIR	34	
	Ah. That could be a problem.		
	Olive sighs in disappointment. Then she looks at her trunk. She reacts with a smile.		* *
35	OLIVE	35	
	Wait a second. I have my own built-in musical instrument. I can trumpet with my trunk.		* *
	She demonstrates <TRUMPETING>. Elinor <LAUGHS>. Ari does a back flip in excitement.		* *
36	ARI	36	*
	Haha! I love when you do that.		*
37	OLIVE	37	
	Does that count?		
	Señor Tapir is delighted.		
38	SEÑOR TAPIR	38	
	Of course! There are many different ways to make music. You just have to be creative.		* * *
39	ELINOR	39	
	So if we all find musical instruments, we can play in your concert?		
40	SEÑOR TAPIR	40	
	That would make me very happy! See you later.		* *
	He walks off, <STRUMMING> his guitar.		*
41	ELINOR	41	*
	We'll be back in time for the concert with ... something.		* *
	Elinor, Ari and Olive look at each other.		
42	ARI	42	
	How are we going get our own musical instruments?		

43	ELINOR	43	*
	Señor Tapir said to be creative.		*
44	OLIVE	44	*
	That means we have to think about		*
	it a different way.		*
	Elinor looks at Olive, and her trunk, then gets an idea.		*
45	ELINOR	45	*
	Olive made music with her trunk.		*
	Maybe we can make music with our		*
	bodies. What if I do this with my		*
	ears?		*
	Elinor taps her ears together. No sound.		*
46	ELINOR (CONT'D)	46	*
	Anything?		*
47	ARI	47	*
	Nope. How about this?		*
	Ari flaps his wings. No real sound. Elinor shakes her head.		*
	But then, in the distance, we hear a <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP>.		*
	Elinor reacts. Her ears swivel.		
48	ELINOR	48	
	Wait. I hear with my own ear ...		
	something that sounds like ... a		
	musical instrument.		
49	ARI	49	
	Where?		
50	ELINOR	50	
	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.

51	ARI	51
	I don't see any musicians around.	

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

Elinor stops. Ari and Olive bump into her.

52	OLIVE	52	
	Ooof!		
53	ARI	53	
	Elinor. Why'd you stop?		
54	ELINOR	54	*
	Listen. Do you hear it?		
	They all listen. And then ... <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP>.		
55	ARI	55	*
	That tap-tap-tapping?		*
56	OLIVE	56	*
	It sounds kind of like a drum.		*
57	ELINOR	57	*
	But I don't see anyone drumming. So what's making that sound?		
58	ARI	58	
	An <i>invisible</i> drummer?		
59	ELINOR	59	
	(giggle) I don't think so.		
60	OLIVE	60	
	Let's spread out and see if we can find where it's coming from.		
	WIDE SHOT: They walk in different directions. And then, we hear <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP>. They stop and listen. The tapping stops. They all walk in a different direction. They hear <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP> again. They stop. Elinor points off in one direction.		* * * * *
61	ELINOR	61	
	This way.		
	The others follow Elinor. And we hear, louder, a <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP>. Elinor looks up.		
62	ELINOR (CONT'D)	62	
	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.		
63	ARI	63	
	All I see is a bird hopping around.		

The bird stops and taps its beak on the trunk. <TAP TAP TAP>. *

64 ELINOR 64 *

Listen. That little bird is making *

those tapping sounds. *

65 ARI 65 *

Wow! That's a pretty loud sound for *

such a little bird. Why d'you think *

it's doing that? *

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

66 OLIVE 66 *

Let's see what I can find out in my *

nature book. *

She opens her book and flips through some pages, then finds *

the right one. *

67 OLIVE (CONT'D) 67 *

Hmmm. Oh! Maybe it's a woodpecker. *

Look. *

CLOSE ON: Illustration in Olive's book shows a woodpecker *

poking its beak into tree bark. *

68 OLIVE (CONT'D) 68 *

(reading) Woodpeckers are birds *

that poke holes in the tree to get *

at insects inside. It says they *

have a really strong and hard beak *

for tapping on the wood. *

From the book, we go to the live woodpecker as it starts *

pecking at the tree with a very loud <TAP, TAP-TAP, TAP>. *

69 ELINOR 69 *

That's SO interesting! When you *

hit something hard with something *

else hard, you get a tap-tap- *

tapping sound. *

Ari starts moving his body to the <TAP TAP TAPPING>. *

70 ARI 70 *

You also get a pretty cool beat. *

Elinor and Olive look at Ari and then <GIGGLE> and join the *

dance. The three do a goofy dance *

Kinda like <https://www.dropbox.com/s/5apjlyjsaggyvwg/calvin-hobbes-dance-comic.jpg?dl=0> *

until the bird STOPS TAPPING and flies off.

*

71 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE
(giggles and laughs)

71

*

*

Elinor has a thought.

*

72 ELINOR
If I were a bird with a hard beak,
I'd have my own musical instrument,
like Olive and her trunk.

72

*

*

*

*

73 ARI
I guess we have to keep looking.

73

*

*

74 OLIVE
And listening.

74

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

They walk, with Elinor in the lead. Suddenly, she stops.
Olive and Ari bump into her again.

75 OLIVE
Oof.

75

76 ARI
Elinor? Why'd you stop again?

76

77 ELINOR
I hear with my own ear ...
something that sounds like
rattling.

77

*

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

78 OLIVE
Is someone playing maracas?

78

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

79

A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears over Olive's head, with two MARACAS.

*

Olive MIMES shaking a maraca in each hand.

*

80 OLIVE
They're these wooden instruments
you hold in your hands. And they
have stuff that rattles inside. So
when you shake them they sound
like...

80

*

*

*

*

*

*

<RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE.> *

81 OLIVE (CONT'D) 81
Just like that.

82 ELINOR 82
But what's making the sound?

Ari looks around, then gets a funny idea. *

83 ARI 83 *
An invisible **maracas** player? *

84 ELINOR 84 *
(giggles) You are so silly. *

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

85 ELINOR (CONT'D) 85
I think it's coming from over
there.

CLOSE ON: Bean pods blowing in the wind. <RATTLE RATTLE> Some
are GREEN and some are BROWN.

Elinor, Ari and Olive approach and look at the bean pods
waving and <RATTILING>.

86 ARI 86 *
Cool! Beans! ... But is that what's
rattling? *

They look around. *

87 OLIVE 87 *
There isn't anything else. *

88 ELINOR 88 *
We need more observations! *

Ari looks more closely at the pods. *

89 ARI 89 *
Some of the beans are green and
some are brown. *

Elinor touches a green pod. It's squishy. *

90 ELINOR 90 *
The green ones are squishy. Squishy
things don't rattle. *

	Olive touches a brown pod and reacts.		*
91	OLIVE	91	*
	This brown one isn't squishy. It's hard and dry.		*
			*
	Ari squats down and finds some brown bean pods on the ground. One is split open, revealing the hard brown beans inside.		*
			*
92	ARI	92	*
	The beans inside are hard and dry too.		*
			*
	A gust of wind blows on the hanging bean pods and they <RATTLE> in the breeze.		*
			*
93	ELINOR	93	*
	Listen. When the wind blows, they rattle.		*
			*
94	ARI	94	*
	So the wind is the invisible maracas player.		*
			*
	They all <giggle>. Then Ari picks up a brown pod each hand and shakes one <RATTLE> and then the other <RATTLE>.		*
			*
95	ARI (CONT'D)	95	*
	I can make them rattle, just like the wind.		*
			*
	All of a sudden, Elinor gets an idea.		*
96	ELINOR	96	*
	And that makes you ...		*
			*
	Olive catches on and joins Elinor.		*
97	ELINOR/OLIVE	97	*
	A maracas player!		*
			*
	Ari looks from one hand to the other, and then realizes they're right. He gives his "maracas" a few rhythmic shakes <RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE>		*
			*
98	ARI	98	*
	You're right. I am a maracas player. That means I've got an instrument for the concert.		*
			*
99	OLIVE	99	*
	Now we just need an instrument for you, Elinor.		*
			*

	Elinor smiles with an idea.		*
100	ELINOR	100	*
	I think we already found one, but we just didn't know it.		*
101	ARI	101	*
	We did? What was it?		*
	A THOUGHT BALLOON forms over Elinor's head, and we see the WOODPECKER TAPPING ON THE TREE <TAP TAP TAP>.		*
102	ELINOR	102	*
	Remember when we thought we heard a drummer ...		*
	Olive smiles as she gets it.		*
103	OLIVE	103	*
	But it turned out to be the woodpecker tapping its hard beak on the tree.		*
	Ari is trying to follow it.		*
104	ARI	104	*
	Right. ...		*
105	ELINOR	105	*
	So if we find something strong and hard and use it to hit something hard, I can sound like a drummer.		*
106	ARI	106	*
	Right! So we just need to find two hard things to hit together.		*
107	OLIVE	107	*
	Then we can all play in Señor Tapir's concert!		*
	They hurry off.		*

6. EXT. FOREST - MONTAGE

1) Ari finds two sticks and hands them to Elinor. She tests them for hardness and nods "Yes". Then taps them on the ground. Not much sound. She shakes her head "No".

2) Olive holds out an APPLE, and Elinor taps it with the stick. No sound. Elinor shakes her head "No."

3) Ari finds a SMALL HOLLOWED OUT LOG and holds it up for Elinor. She tries tapping the stick against the log <TAP, TAP-TAP TAP>. All three nod their heads, "YES"! *

4) They head back toward the park, Ari holding his BEAN PODS and Elinor holding her STICKS AND HOLLOW LOG. *

7. EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor, Ari and Olive run to Sr. Tapir with their "instruments". He is at the gazebo, strumming his guitar. There are some members of the COMMUNITY who have gathered for the show. Some are on blankets, others walking along and stop to watch etc. *

108 SEÑOR TAPIR 108 *
Amigos. You're just in time for the *
concert. Did you find instruments *
to play? *

109 ELINOR 109 *
We sure did. We have Olive *
trumpeting on her trunk.

Olive raises her trunk and <TRUMPETS!>

110 OLIVE 110 *
(trumpets then giggles) And we have *
Elinor drumming on a hollow log.

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

111 ELINOR 111 *
And Ari playing bean pod maracas. *

Ari dances and shakes his bean pods <RHYTHMIC RATTLE>. *

Señor Tapir applauds enthusiastically.

112 SEÑOR TAPIR 112 *
Wonderful, amigos! Shall we make *
some music?

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

SONG: MAKE MUSIC, NATURALLY

113 SR. TAPIR/ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 113

*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!*

*Elinor: I'll tap these sticks just
like a drum,*

*
*

*S. Tapir: Tap along with me while I
strum*

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

*
*

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

*
*

Ari shakes the bean pods and dances to the rhythm.

*

Señor 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!*

114 SEÑOR TAPIR 114

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

115 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 115

Si, Señor Tapir!

116

117

FADE OUT.