

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 131B Nature Walk
By: Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: How can we keep our signs from falling over?

Logline: The kids' Nature Walk signs keep falling over until Elinor and her friends realize they need "roots" like a tree.

Curriculum Goals; LS2. Understand that that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow: b. Identify the basic parts of plants and their function d. Explore how different external features of an animal or plant help it survive in its environment. (Elinor and her friends notice that the roots keep a tree from falling over.)

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function'):
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 copy the idea of "roots" by burying the bottom of their signposts in the ground).

SEP 8 Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

- Describe how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) support a scientific or engineering idea
- Obtain information using various texts, and other media that will be useful in answering a scientific question and/or supporting a scientific claim. (Elinor and her friends rely on Olive's Nature Book to give them information about the tree's roots).

Designing Solutions (engineering)

- Construct evidence-based explanations for natural phenomena (science)
- Use tools and/or materials to design and/or build a device that provides a solution to a specific problem (engineering) (Elinor and her friends realize that the reason the tree stands up straight is because its roots are buried in the ground, and they decide to copy this idea to solve the problem of their signs falling over).

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Mz. Mole addresses her excited students, who are sitting on the grass or lounging around in front of her.

<SFX: YAY WALLA!!> The class is raring to go.

Our trio is stoked! They run to the entrance of their Nature Walk (a semi-circular path through the forest that takes you back to the playground - the exit is not far away).

6 ELINOR 6
(hopping around)
I can't WAIT to show our friends
ALL the amazing nature around here.

Olive takes out her notebook.

7 OLIVE 7
Ok, we picked out a really nice
path with three great spots to stop
and notice nature.

ANGLE ON: Olive's notebook shows a little diagram of the
woods behind the school, with the Nature Walk traced out.
With her trunk, she points to the three stops in order: the
Beehive, the Bird's Nest and the Willow Tree.

8 ELINOR 8
That looks so fun, Olive. But...
how will our friends know which way
to go to follow the path?

9 ARI 9
No worries, Elinor. That's why I
made these signs - TAH-DAH!

Ari points. ANGLE ON: some small kid-like arrow signs set up
close by (they stand up on bases of X shaped crosses).

10 ELINOR 10
Those look great, Ari.

11 OLIVE 11
Yeah, they'll show our friends
which way to go.

12 ARI 12
Okay, lets go put them up.

Ari grabs the signs and antics to run off.

13 ELINOR 13
Uh Ari, aren't you forgetting
something?
(Ari stops, uncertain.
<SFX: UHHHH WALLA>)
(good natured)
The first sign! To tell everyone
where to start.

14 ARI 14
(a revelation)
Oh, riiiiiiight.

Ari runs back and sets up the first arrow, but it wobbles a
bit (the cross/feet of the signs are a bit small).

15 OLIVE 15
Great. Now let's go set up the rest
of the Nature Walk!

The kids run off but we stay on the arrow. A beat, then it
falls over.

2. EXT. NATURE WALK (BEEHIVE) -- DAY

The kids run on-screen.

16 ARI 16
(like an announcer)
And now, the first spot on the
Nature Walk... My favorite...
(Ari gestures)
The BEEHIVE!

The kids all look the way Ari is pointing (it's not too far
up, and it's obvious). <SFX: WHOOAA>

17 OLIVE 17
It's dripping with honey!

18 ARI 18
It is?
(He looks up and the honey
drips on his face near
his mouth)
It IS!
(he licks the honey away)
Mmmmmmm. Honey.

19 ELINOR 19
Sweet! Our friends are gonna love
it. Okay, let's put a sign to point
to the next spot on the Nature
Walk.

Olive checks her notebook then points.

20 OLIVE 20
It's... this way!

21 ARI 21
One sign, coming up.
(puts the sign, then)
Let's go!

They all run off in the direction of the sign.

They come running OS, with Elinor in the lead.

She gestures. ANGLE ON: a bird's nest, again, not too far up. Suddenly a baby bird pops out.

Olive checks her notebook and points.

Ari puts up the sign and off they go.

CU: Olive, excited and in Vanna White mode.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: The Willow Tree, and it is truly spectacular.

30 OLIVE 30
 Yep. That's why I love trees.
 (she pats the trunk)
 (MORE)

They're always right there where
you left them.

Elinor trips and almost falls.

ELINOR 33
I'm okay. I just tripped over
something, oh I see...
(she observes the willow
tree roots carefully)
Whoaa! This willow tree has big,
long roots.

As Olive talks, we see a THOUGHT BUBBLE with a picture from her book revealing a willow tree's deep roots.

Olive checks her notebook.

Olive points. Ari sets up the final sign. <SFX: ARI HEE-YAH!>
Then the kids run OS.

The kids arrive back at the schoolyard, now all decorated.
Mz. Mole stands amidst her class.

37 MZ. MOLE 37
 It looks like we're all ready.
 (announcing with joy)
 Let the Nature Celebration begin!!

The kids <SFX: CHEER WALLA>

38 ELINOR 38
 Ooooh, I can't WAIT for our friends
 to try our Nature Walk!

Elinor, Ari and Olive run back to the entrance. Ari notices
 the sign on the ground.

39 ELINOR (CONT'D) 39
 Uh-oh. The sign fell over.
 (she picks it up)
 There. Now we're really ready. All
 we need are some friends.

Ari steps up.

40 ARI 40
 Leave this to me...
 (he assumes a pose,
 announcing like a
 carnival barker)
 Step right up folks and see the
 wonders of NATURE. The bees...

Elinor and Olive start getting into it.

41 ELINOR 41
 The birds!

42 OLIVE 42
 The amazing TREES!

At this moment Sally Beaver walks by and stops dead.

43 SALLY 43
 Trees? Did you say trees? I LOVE
 trees! And sticks! Will there be
 sticks?

44 OLIVE 44
 There will definitely be sticks,
 Sally. Come enjoy our nature walk!

45 SALLY 45
 Okay, which way do I go?

46 ARI 46
 Just follow the signs.

Sally points in the direction of the first sign.

47 SALLY 47
This way?

48 ARI 48
You got it.

Sally walks off. Meanwhile Koa and Tito come walking around the school with a basket of veggies and shovels.

49 ELINOR 49
(calling)
Tito! Koa! Want to go on our
Nature Walk?

Koa and Tito look at each other and smile. Then run to the kids (leaving behind their gardening shovel and basket of veggies).

6. EXT. NATURE WALK (BEEHIVE) -- DAY

Sally Beaver gets to the Beehive.

50 SALLY 50
(singing to herself)
Sticks, sticks, sticks, sticks...
(she stops when she sees)
Oh! Bees! Awesome! Look at that
hive dripping with honey.

She nabs a drip of honey on her paw and puts it in her mouth, then she admires the bees for a beat.

51 SALLY (CONT'D) 51
Mmmm, I wonder where I should go
next.
(She notices the sign.)
Oh, right, follow the sign.

She starts going in that direction when she sees something on the ground.

52 SALLY (CONT'D) 52
<GASP!> A stick!

She bends down to pick it up but as she does she gently knocks into the arrow sign. She doesn't notice it wobbling as she walks off happily with her stick. Then it falls over.

A beat, then Koa and Tito arrive.

53	TITO	53
	Look! A beehive!	
They each grab a drip of honey with their fingers. <SFX: Mmmmm WALLA>		
54	KOA	54
	Now which way should we go?	
55	TITO	55
	Ari said to follow the signs.	
56	KOA	56
	Oh, there's one.	

They see the sign on the ground. It points the wrong direction. They look at each other, shrug, then follow the sign into the forest.

7. EXT. NATURE WALK (BIRD'S NEST) - DAY

We see the sign, waiting, with the Momma bird perched on it. As we hear Sally approach the bird takes off and the sign falls over into some bushes just before she appears.

57	SALLY (O.C.)	57
	(singing to herself)	
	One stick, two sticks, three sticks	
	four...	
	(arriving)	
	Hey! A bird's nest.	
	(the baby bird pokes out)	
	And a BABY! How tweet, tweet,	
	tweet!	
	(observes for a moment,	
	satisfied)	
	This is a great nature walk. I	
	wonder which way I should go next.	
	Hmmm, I don't see another sign.	
	(she looks around,	
	confused, then makes up	
	her mind)	
	Maybe it's this way.	
	(singing to herself)	
	Five sticks, six sticks, seven	
	sticks, more!	

She walks off into the forest the wrong way.

8. EXT. NATURE WALK (ENTRANCE)- DAY

Ari is ushering the Goat Twins in.

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ANGLE ON: The end of the walk, at the other side of the playground. A beat.

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9. EXT. FOREST (BEEHIVE) - DAY

The twins arrive at the beehive location, see the sign on the floor, and follow it the wrong way. Then the camera widens.

WIDE SHOT REVEALS: Sally, Koa, Tito, Mary and Lizzie are wandering around in the forest. ANGLE ON: Sally bumps into Koa and Tito.

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Suddenly the Goat Twins arrive.

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10. EXT. NATURE WALK (ENTRANCE) -- DAY

The kids are waiting for their friends, looking towards the exit.

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At that moment Sally, Koa, Tito, Lizzie and Mary all emerge from the forest back at the playground.

67 ELINOR 67
There you are!

68	ARI	68
	What happened?	

69 TITO 69
We got lost.

70	ARI	70
	Lost? How could you get lost?	

71 ELINOR 71
Didn't you follow the signs?

72 KOA 72
We only saw one sign.

73 TITO 73
And it pointed us into the forest.

74 KOA 74
Then we couldn't find another sign.

Our trio is confused:

75 ARI 75
I wonder what happened to all our
signs?

76 ELINOR 76
Let's go find out. We need more
observations!

The kids run off.

11. EXT. BEEHIVE -- DAY

The kids arrive at the beehive spot.

77 ELINOR 77
Where's the sign?

Olive notices.

78 OLIVE 78
There it is, it fell on the ground
and it's pointing the wrong way.

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Olive picks it up.

87 OLIVE 87
It's not your fault Ari, these
signs fall over a lot.

Olive gives the sign a slight push, and it falls over.

88 ELINOR 88
Yeah, they don't stay in place. I
wonder... How can we keep them from
falling over?

89 ARI 89
Hmmm, good question.
(He leans on the tree
again)
Let's think about this.

As Olive and Ari think (Olive pacing, Ari leaning on the tree
in different and funny overdramatic thoughtful pose) Elinor
is observing Ari.

90 ELINOR 90
Wait a minute Ari, I think you're
LEANING on the answer!

91 ARI 91
I am?

92 OLIVE 92
He is?

93 ELINOR 93
Look at the tree. It doesn't fall
over when you lean on it, like the
sign did.

94 ARI 94
Huh, you're right.
(Ari pushes on it)
It won't budge.

The other kids join him - they push and push, but the tree
doesn't fall, it keeps standing straight and tall.

95 ARI (CONT'D) 95
It's like it's stuck to the ground.

96 ELINOR 96
(the penny drops)
Stuck to the ground... that's it!
The tree IS stuck to the ground -
by its roots.

Elinor points to the big root. The kids all gather and observe. Ari gives the root a little kick.

97 OLIVE 97
Yeah, the roots under the ground
help the tree stay in place.

In a THOUGHT BUBBLE, we see the cross section picture of the big tree with the roots again.

98 ARI 98
Those are some deep roots!

99 ELINOR 99
And that gives me an idea.

100 ARI 100
I know. We should grow the SIGNS!

Ari hunches over a barren spot of ground.

101 ELINOR 101
I don't think we can grow signs.
But maybe we can we bury the
bottoms of the signs - like the
tree roots.

Elinor has a THOUGHT BUBBLE that shows a sign going into a shallow hole that gets filled with dirt.

102 OLIVE 102
Great idea, Elinor! But how are we
going to make the holes on the
ground?

103 ELINOR 103
<GASP!> I know...
(Elinor runs to the exit,
it's not far, and calls
OC)
Koa, can I borrow your gardening
shovel?
(a beat, then)
Thank you.

Elinor runs back to Olive and Elinor brandishing his shovel.

104 ELINOR (CONT'D) 104
Let's get digging!

14. SIGN BURYING MONTAGE:

The kids sing as they bury signs, first at the Willow Tree, where they compare the bottom of the sign to the exposed roots before burying it, then at the other locations.

105	ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI	105
	ELINOR: Trees have roots, That hold them steady, Through wind and rain, They're always ready.	
	OLIVE: Our signs need to stay up, So our friends can get around, So we'll bury the bottom, Like a root in the ground.	
	ARI: When our signs are strong and straight, We'll all know where to go, Our Nature Walk will be great And everyone will know.	
	ALL: With roots, roots, roots, Trees and signs stay up strong. With roots, roots, roots You can't go wrong.	

15. EXT. WILLOW TREE - DAY

Mz. Mole and the class are following our trio as they finish up the walk.

106	OLIVE	106
	And HERE is the last part of our Nature Walk... The willow tree!	
	<SFX: WOOOOWW/WOO HOO/AWESOME>. The class kids admire the beauty of the tree and then run up to play on it.	
107	MZ. MOLE	107
	What a wonderful Nature Walk. And these signs were SO helpful!	
	Ari goes over and leans on the sign.	
108	ARI	108
	Yup, and notice they <i>don't</i> fall over.	
109	ELINOR	109
	We buried the bottom of the signs to keep them in place, Mz. Mole.	

110 OLIVE 110
Just like the roots on this big
tree.

111 MZ. MOLE 111
How clever! And what a perfect way
to end our Nature Celebration.

112 ARI 112
Yeah, trees are so cool!

He runs to the tree and starts doing patented Ari flips and
jumps and ends by hanging upside down. <SFX: ARI TA-DAH
WALLA>

113 ELINOR 113
Good thing that tree has really
deep and strong roots!

They all share a <SFX: GIGGLE>, then Elinor and Olive run off
to join their friends as we...

IRIS OUT

THE END *