

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW132 INTERSTITIAL SENOR TAPIR: D. ANDRE GREEN

Written by

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FOLLOWSA: EPISODE 164 "BUTTERFLY PARTY"

CURRICULUM: D.Andre Green was curious to know how monarch butterflies know when to fly back home from their winter homes. He discovered that monarchs can feel when it gets cold.

CURRICULUM GOALS: LS8d: Identify seasonal adaptations in physical characteristics or behaving of animals [The kids learn that monarch butterflies change their behavior with the season. They migrate to warmer places for the winter, where they rest (enter diapause).]

FIRST DRAFT: Feb 04, 2020

It's early Fall and the trees are just beginning to change color. We open with a gusty whirl of wind and leaves whooshing through the air in front of the colorful trees, then see it swirl past Señor Tapir and the kids. Holding his guitar, Señor Tapir sits on a tree stump facing the kids, who sit around his feet. As the cold breeze rushes past, Olive wraps her arms around herself and shivers.

A monarch butterfly flutters over the kids' heads and lands on Señor Tapir's head.

Señor Tapir starts to strum his guitar and sings. After a few words, we transition to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing.

2. EXT FLOWER GARDEN -- DAY

The butterfly flies up in the sky and heads away with purpose.

5 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 5
 Every fall, monarch butterflies
 make a long flight,

Green hops into a vehicle (or flaps into the sky) to follow it. We see the landscape pass by.

6 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 6
 They fly and fly with all their
 might.

3. EXT CENTRAL CALIFORNIA MONARCH WINTERING SITE -- DAY

The butterfly reaches a Monterey Pine tree full of other monarchs. As Green hops out of his car and watches, the butterfly yawns and settles in happily for a "rest" (diapause).

7 SEÑOR TAPIR 7
 When they reach a warm place,
 they'll no longer roam
 Til it's time to go back to their
 summertime home.

Green looks very closely at the resting butterflies. He scratches his chin.

8 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 8
 But D. Andre Green wondered
 How do they know when it's time to
 go?
 Do they follow the birds?...

Green watches a flock of birds fly by, but the butterflies don't stir. He shakes his head.

9 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 9
 Can they smell the snow?

A few snowflakes fall. The butterflies don't stir. Green looks thoughtful.

10 SEÑOR TAPIR 10
 Then D. Andrea Green got an idea to
 try.
 Maybe the TEMPERATURE tells them
 when to fly.

Green whips out a thermometer. We see the mercury drop - and maybe a cold gust go by. The monarchs yawn and stir. They fly off. Green watches them go, jumping up and down in a eureka moment.

11 SEÑOR TAPIR 11
They feel the cold! That's how they
know where to be.
D. Andrea Green, thanks for your
curiosity!

3. EXT FOREST -- EARLY AUTUMN DAY

The kids <SFX: CHEER> as Señor Tapir finishes his song. He
stands up, and the butterfly flies away from his head.

12 SEÑOR TAPIR 12
And now it's time for me to go
home.

13 OLIVE 13
Why, Señor Tapir? Are you cold?

14 SEÑOR TAPIR 14
No, it's time for lunch! I can feel
it.

Señor Tapir pats his stomach, which <SFX: GRUMBLES>. Everyone
<SFX: LAUGHS>.

END.