

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW132 INTERSTITIAL SENOR TAPIR: D. ANDRE GREEN

Written by
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FOLLOWS: 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
SECOND DRAFT: Feb 20, 2020
POLISH DRAFT: May 04, 2020

1. EXT FOREST -- EARLY AUTUMN DAY

It's Fall and the trees have changed 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.

OLIVE

Brr. It's getting cold! You can really feel it.

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

SEÑOR TAPIR

Did you know that butterflies can also feel the cold? That's how they know when it's time to fly somewhere warmer. [pause] Hmm, I think a song is coming. I can feel it.

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.

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

(singing)

Meet André Green. He's a scientist, you see

2. EXT FLOWER GARDEN -- DAY

We see Professor André Green (animal Lion). Green is standing next to a monarch butterfly that's perched on a flower. He's staring at it with excitement.

SEÑOR TAPIR

Butterflies fill him up with curiosity.

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

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

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.

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)
To escape winter's icy cold bite.

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).

SEÑOR TAPIR
They go every year, around the same
time.
Flying together, heading for
sunshine.

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

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)
But how do they know
When they should go?
Do they follow the birds?
Or wait for the snow?

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

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)
(CHORUS) Ask a question, follow it
through,
You'll learn things amazing and
new!

Green squints and looks more closely at the butterflies. He shakes his head.

SEÑOR TAPIR
André Green figured it out.
TEMPERATURE is what it's about.

Green whips out a thermometer. The thermometer could be color coded or have pictures to show seasonal changes. 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.

SEÑOR TAPIR
They feel the cold! To know where
to be.

(MORE)

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)
Scientist André Green, thanks for
your curiosity!
(CHORUS) Ask a question, follow it
through,
You'll learn things amazing and
new!

4. 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.

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

OLIVE
Why, Señor Tapir? Are you cold?

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

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

END.