

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

136 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: DIFFERENT DRUMMERS

Written by
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Follows 136A "The Little Drummer"

Curriculum: The kids learn that different kinds of woodpeckers make different kinds of drumming patterns to talk to each other.

Learning Goals: LS2c: Compare how the external body parts of animals and plants are the same and/or different. [The kids learn that woodpeckers come in many shapes, sizes, and colors.]

LS8a: Observe and describe similarities and differences across different types of plants and animals. [The kids learn to tell different woodpecker drumming calls apart.]

FIRST DRAFT: 17-APR-20

It's recess. ELINOR, OLIVE, and ARI are hanging out together. We hear <SFX: BIRD SONG> in the background.

On top of the bird sound, we hear a <SFX: PILEATED WOODPECKER DRUMMING>, a deep, drumming sound that trails off.

Ari points at a Hairy Woodpecker perched in a nearby tree.

We see the Hairy Woodpecker drumming, and we hear <SFX: HAIRY WOODPECKER DRUMMING>.

A Pileated Woodpecker flies in to the adjacent tree and we hear <SFx: PILEATED WOODPECKER DRUMMING>.

MZ MOLE pokes her head into the scene.

The kids <SFX: WOAHH>.

Mz. Mole sits on a stump and pulls out a book about woodpeckers as Ari, Olive, Elinor, and the rest of the kids settle around her.

2. EXT OUTSIDE (BOOK) -- DAY

Mz. Mole's book shows a nice spring forest. We see a songbird singing (an American Robin? A Yellow Warbler?) and hear <SFX: BIRD SONG>.

8 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 8
In the springtime, lots of birds
talk to each other by singing
songs.

A second songbird of the same kind lands nearby. The birds look at each other and second songbird sings <SFX: BIRD SONG> at the first one.

9 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 9
But woodpeckers don't sing.

A Hairy Woodpecker lands nearby. It watches thoughtfully and scratches its head with its wing

10 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 10
Instead, they do something amazing.
They drum with their beaks to talk
to each other. This is a Hairy
Woodpecker, and it makes fast
drumrolls with spaces in between,
like this...

BACK ON: Mz. Mole, who uses a couple of drumsticks to tap out the Hairy Woodpecker's drumroll on the side of the stump.
BACK ON: the book. A Pileated Woodpecker flies up near the Hairy Woodpecker.

11 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 11
This is a Pileated Woodpecker. It's
bigger, with a pointy crest. It
makes deep drumrolls that trail off
at the end, like this...

We see the Pileated Woodpecker drumming and hear <SFX: PILEATED WOODPECKER DRUMMING>. Next, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flies up to join the woodpeckers.

12 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 12
My favorite woodpecker is this one,
the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. It
gets creative, switching between
fast and slow!

We hear the weird, random drumroll of the <SFX: YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER>.

13 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 13
These are just a few of the over
two hundred kinds of woodpeckers.

In a grid, we see a bunch of fancy woodpeckers appear as Mz. Mole mentions the different colors. Some possible species - Green: European Green Woodpecker, Cuban Green Woodpecker. Yellow: Cream-colored Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Woodpecker. Black: Black Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker. Red: Banded Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker. Brown: Chestnut Woodpecker, Smoky-brown Woodpecker. Multicolored: Yellow-fronted Woodpecker, Black-rumped Flameback.

14 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 14
They live all over the world, and
they come in tons of colors, like
green, yellow, black, red, brown,
and multicolored.

[illegible]

3. EXT SCHOOLYARD -- CONTINUOUS

16 ARI 16

I love all those different
drumbeats. Now I really want to try
and make those new sounds.

17 MZ. MOLE 17
I thought you'd never ask! Good
thing I brought enough drumsticks
for everybody.

Mz. Mole passes out drumsticks to the kids. With a <SFX: YAY> they run up to different trees and start banging out different types of <SFX: WOODPECKER SOUNDS>. It's total mayhem. Mz. Mole stands in the middle, enjoying the chaos.

18 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 18
Ahh, I love the soothing sounds of
nature.

THE END.