

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW136 Rain, Rain Don't Go Away

By: Rachel Lipman

Elinor's Question: What is rain good for, anyway?

Logline: Disappointed that the rain has ruined their cloud gazing, the kids investigate where the rain goes to understand why it rains.

Curriculum Goals:

ES 1 Earth Science Core Ideas ES1. Understand that the Earth is made up of a variety of natural materials. a. Explore and describe the characteristics of earth materials such as sand, rocks, soil, water, and air. (Elinor and her friends observe the rain (water).

SEP1. Asking questions (science) and defining problems (engineering)

b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena

c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation. (Elinor and her friends try to answer the question, "Why does it have to rain?")

SEP6. Constructing explanations (science) and Designing Solutions (engineering)

a. Use background knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena (science)

b. Look for and describe patterns and relationships in natural phenomena (science)

c. Use and apply productive science discourse to support an explanation

d. Use evidence to support a theory or solution to a problem (engineering) (Elinor and her friends observe the effects of the rain on the world around them and come up with explanations of why it is necessary).

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari

Secondary: Mrs. BAT

Locations: The Park, the Pond, The Bat' House

Props: Olive's notebook, Olive's satchel, Frog, Snails (Norma and Lulu) Glass of Water, Fan, Rain ponchos, umbrellas, rain boots

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EXT. ARI'S HOUSE - DAY

It's a nice day in Animal Town. We OPEN ON ELINOR, OLIVE and ARI walking through the forest toward the park. Olive is leading the pack, carrying her SACHEL, while Elinor is looking around curiously at things. Ari struts in his usual chipper self. *

1 OLIVE 1 *
It's such a nice day today. I'm so *
glad we're going to the park. *

Ari catches up to her. *

2 ARI 2 *
I know! It's the perfect day to run *
and jump and... dance! *

Ari does a little show that involves some hops, some flying and a funny little jiggle. Elinor and Olive <SFX: GIGGLE>. *

3 OLIVE 3
(giggling)
Nice moves, Ari! *

Ari stops and catches his breath. He's worked up a little sweat. *

4 ARI 4 *
Phew! All this sunny day dancing *
has made me thirsty. *

5 OLIVE 5 *
I have some water. Here you go. *

Olive opens her satchel and gives Ari her water bottle. Ari drinks it up. In the meantime, Olive also takes out her NOTEPAD and CRAYON. *

6 ARI 6 *
Ahhh! Thanks, Olive! *

7 OLIVE 7 *
You're welcome. I can't wait to get *
to the park to look at clouds. *
Drawing them is one of my favorite *
things. *

Olive flips through some of the pages of her notebook, and we see some cloud drawings. *

8 ARI 8 *
Oh, those are nice. Very *cloudy*. *

9 OLIVE 9 *
(giggling) Thanks. *

As the kids walk past a small pond, Elinor, who's been going to and fro poking at things <SFX: OOH-ING AND OHHH-ING>, points at something in the pond. *

10 ELINOR 10 *
Olive, Ari! Look! There's the frog
we always see - on his favorite
rock. Hi Froggy! Or should I say,
"Ribbit?" *

ON THE POND - a frog <SFX: RIBBITS> from the top of a rock that's sticking up out of the pond.

11 ELINOR (CONT'D) 11 *
I think he answered me! I guess I
can speak "frog!"

12 ARI 12
Ooh, let me try: Ribbit! Ribbit!

The frog doesn't react.

13 ARI (CONT'D) 13
Wait, was I speaking frog or toad?

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE> at his silliness. Elinor looks at the frog and the rock, and gets curious.

14 ELINOR 14
HMMMM. I notice Froggy's rock looks
kind of different today.

Ari and Olive go closer to look at the pond.

15 ARI 15
What do you mean, Elinor?

Elinor points to the frog on the rock.

16 ELINOR 16 *
We usually only see the top part of
Froggy's rock when he's sitting on
it.

The kids share a thought bubble that shows the same scene but with the rock more covered in water.

17 ARI 17
Oh yeah, now we can see almost the
whole rock. *

ON THE POND - there's a darker waterline on the rock.

18	ELINOR	18	
	I think the water in the pond is		*
	lower. Look, the whole pond looks		*
	smaller.		*

19	ARI	19	
	Uh oh, don't the fish need water to		*
	swim in?		

THEIR POV - the fish that are in the pond aren't moving much. *

20	OLIVE	20	
	It <i>has</i> been really hot and sunny		*
	lately. Do you think that made the		*
	water go away?		*

Ari walks over to some dried-out looking plants. *

21	ARI	21	
	Even these plants are looking a		*
	little droopy.		

22	OLIVE	22	
	And their leaves are turning brown.		
	They must be thirsty.		*

Just then, the kids stop as they spot the two snails, NORMA and LULU, at the edge of the path.

23	ARI	23	
	Hang on - Norma and Lulu are		
	crossing.		

The kids stop and watch for a beat, but the snails don't seem to move.

24	ELINOR	24	
	Wait - <u>are</u> they crossing?		

They lean closer, but the snails are moving but just BARELY.

25	OLIVE	25	
	I know snails are slow, but this is		
	<u>really</u> slow.		

26	ELINOR	26	
	Hmm... maybe they're thirsty, too?		

On their puzzled look, we fade or iris out. *

Ari squints, turns his head this way and that.

35	ARI	35
	(at a loss)	
	I dunno. I guess it looks like...	
	like...	

<Plink!> A drop falls on his forehead.

36	ARI (CONT'D)	36
	Rain!	

Elinor and Olive react, surprised.

37	OLIVE	37
	Rain?	

Elinor studies the clouds, still looking at their shapes.

38	ELINOR	38
	I don't see anything shaped like	
	rain--	

<Plink! Plink!> A drop lands on each of their foreheads and rolls down their faces.

39	ELINOR (CONT'D)	39
	Ok, I see it now.	

More drops fall here and there, sporadically at first.

40	OLIVE	40
	(disappointed)	
	Oh, no! It's raining.	

Olive snatches up her notebook and crayon and puts them in her satchel. *

41	ARI	41	*
	So much for looking at clouds.		

Elinor points up to the sky, where a fine drizzle has begun.

42	ELINOR	42
	Yeah, the clouds have all mushed	
	into one big gray lump shape! Now	
	they're covering the whole sky.	

43	OLIVE	43
	It's really raining. We'd better go	
	inside somewhere.	

44	ARI	44
	I know! Let's go to my house.	
	Follow me!	

They start jogging back through the park.

EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Olive tries to protect her satchel as they jog. The kids stop momentarily under a tree for shelter.

45	OLIVE	45	
	Awww. I really wanted to look at		*
	clouds today. And now we're getting		
	all wet. Who needs rain anyway?		

Elinor looks curious.

46	ELINOR	46	
	Hmm, that's an interesting		*
	question, Olive. Who DOES need		*
	rain?		

Ari looks at his wet clothes, smiling.

47	ARI	47	
	Well, I think it's fun to get wet!		*
	But I'm not sure why anyone needs		
	rain.		

48	ELINOR	48	
	I wonder... (gets an idea) Let's		
	figure out what the rain <u>does</u> . We		
	need MORE observations!		

49	OLIVE	49	
	Observations? Now? In the rain?		

50	ELINOR	50	
	Why not? The best time to observe		
	rain is... when it's raining!		

51	OLIVE	51	
	I guess that make sense. I just		
	don't like the "getting wet" part.		

Elinor and Ari step out and look up as the rain falls (still gentle), as Olive stays under the tree.

52	ARI	52	
	But Olive, this rain is warm and		
	gentle - it's like a giant outdoor		
	shower!		

Ari spreads out his arms to enjoy the rain coming down.

53	ELINOR	53	
	Or a water fountain from the sky!		*

Elinor tilts her head back to drink. Meanwhile Olive calls from under her shelter.

54	OLIVE	54	
	(calling)		
	Uhh, why don't we go inside and		*
	enjoy it through the window?		

Ari frolics through frame a la "Singing in the Rain!"

55	ARI	55	
	Haha, this is AWESOME! I can dance		*
	in the rain too!		*

56	ELINOR	56	
	Olive, don't you want to figure out		
	what the rain does?		

57	OLIVE	57	
	Welllll...		

58	ELINOR	58	
	We'll be <i>rain detectives</i> . Come on!!		*

Elinor and Ari start dancing in the rain.

59	OLIVE	59	
	(to herself)		
	I guess that does look like fun.		

Olive comes out from under the tree and joins them. A beat as they run around, dancing in the rain. <SFX: HAPPY WHOO-HOO RAIN DANCE WALLA AND GIGGLES>> *

Olive looks at the flowers nearby that are perking up.

60	OLIVE (CONT'D)	60	
	Hey, look - these flowers over here		
	are opening up in the rain, just		
	like we opened our arms to dance in		
	the rain!		

The kids stop dancing and observe.

61	OLIVE (CONT'D)	61	
	Oooh, I'll bet these plants were		*
	thirsty. They must love the rain.		*

68 ARI 68
Ohhh... I bet it's easier for the
snails to move when their bellies
are wet.

69 ELINOR 69
So the rain makes things better for
snails, too. *

70 OLIVE 70
And it makes Norma and Lulu all
shiny!

They get to the pond.

71 ARI 71
Oh, hi, Froggy. How do you like the
rain? I mean, ribbit ribbit!

ON THE POND - the frog is still sitting on the rock, which
has a few raindrops splatters on it (<SFX: RIBBIT>). Olive
spots the water level on the rock.

72 OLIVE 72
Look! We can't see as much of the
rock. The water in the pond must be
getting higher. *

73 ELINOR 73
It's the rain! The rain is filling
up the pond.

74 ARI 74
Whoa... no wonder Froggy looks so
happy - he has more pond to swim
in! And look at the fish - they're
swimming around a lot more.

ANGLE ON: happy fish swimming in the pond.

75 OLIVE 75
Do you think the fish know it's
raining?

A happy fish JUMPS out of the pond and lands with a <SPLASH>

76 ELINOR 76
I dunno, but they must be happy to
have their pond full of fresh
water.

Elinor stands up and takes in the world under the soft rain.

77 ELINOR (CONT'D) 77
I think we figured out who needs
the rain - lots of plants and
animals.

Olive stands up, too, and agrees.

78 OLIVE 78
Yeah, rain waters the plants and
fills the ponds for the frogs and
the fish to live in... *

79 ARI 79
And it even helps snails move
better!

80 ELINOR 80
We solved the mystery, rain
detectives!

Elinor twirls, face uplifted to the rain.

81 ELINOR (CONT'D) 81
Rain, Rain NEVER GO AWAY!!!

On their positive energy, the kids start singing a song. They
run and dance around in the rain, looking at the ways that
rain helps plants and animals.

82 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 82
(chorus)

Why do we need the rain,
to fall down from the sky?
Why do we need the rain,
Why can't it just stay dry?

OLIVE: Rain makes the grass turn
green, It waters every tree,
ARI: Rain helps the flowers bloom,
for all the birds and bees.

ARI: Frogs and slugs and snails,
Move better when they're wet,
ALL: Fish need water in their pond,
Let's not forget.

ALL: Why do we need the rain?
To fall down from the sky?
Why do we need the rain?
Now we know whyyyyy!

They come out of the song <SFX: GIGGLING> and in the soft
drizzle, Olive gets inspired.

83 OLIVE 83
That was so much fun. I'm going to
draw what we learned in my
notebook.

She gets the notebook out, but it's dripping wet.

84 OLIVE (CONT'D) 84
Oh, no, my notebook is all wet! How
am I going to draw in it?

Ari gets an idea.

85 ARI 85
I bet my mom can help you. Come on!

INT. ARI'S HOUSE - DAY - A SHORT TIME LATER

A short transition later, we open on a close shot of Olive's notebook, its pages fluttering. We pull out to reveal a small fan blowing air on it, drying its pages, and MRS. BAT standing nearby. Elinor and Olive are drying off with towels.

86 MRS. BAT 86
Your notebook will be dry in no
time, Olive.

87 OLIVE 87
Wow, thanks, Mrs. Bat!

88 MRS. BAT 88
No worries. Rain is wet, you can't
avoid it. The good thing is, you
can always get dry.

As the kids dry off, Elinor turns to Mrs. Bat.

89 ELINOR 89
All this rain talk is making me
thirsty. May we have water to
drink, please, Mrs. Bat?

90 MRS. BAT 90
Sure Elinor, I'll be right back.

As Mrs. Bat goes off to get water, Olive has a thought. *

91 OLIVE 91 *
I just thought of something - when
we want water, we can just get it
from the kitchen or from our water
bottles. But when frogs or ponds or
snails need water, they have to
wait for rain! *

92 ELINOR 92 *
You're right... That means rain is
EXTRA important for them. *

Mrs. Bat returns with a glass of water for her, and some rain gear for the kids.

93	MRS. BAT	93	
	And for us too. We're all part of		*
	the same forest. Here's some water.		*
	And also some ponchos and umbrellas		*
	to keep you all dry if you go back		
	outside.		

94	OLIVE	94	
	Thanks, Mrs. Bat. Now that I know		
	why we need the rain, it's so much		
	fun to play in it.		

At that moment, Ari comes in, already wearing his rain gear.

95	ARI	95	
	Ok, who's ready to go back and		
	play in the rain some more?		

Without waiting for an answer, Ari raises his hand.

96	ARI (CONT'D)	96	
	Ooh, me! Me!		

Elinor and Olive <SFX: GIGGLE> and grab their rain hats.

97	ELINOR	97	
	I'm ready!		

98	OLIVE	98	
	Me too!		

A crossfade later, the kids are standing at the doorway, all wearing their rain gear.

99	ARI	99	
	Let's go play in the rain!		

As Ari opens the front door, they look outside and... GASP.

INT/EXT. ARI'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

THEIR POV looking out the door - a brilliant sun is shining through the tail end of the rain.

100	ARI	100	
	Sunshine?!!		

EXT. ARI'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

They walk outside, still in disbelief.

101	ELINOR	101
	Where'd all the rain go?	

102	ARI	102
	Just when we got all raincoated and rainbooted, there's no more <u>rain</u> .	

103	OLIVE	103
	Awww.	

As the kids start walking from Ari's house, Elinor looks around. *

104	ELINOR	104	
	We can still be rain detectives.		*
	Things look so different when they're wet. Look!		

CU on - the flowers and grass glistening in sunshine.

105	OLIVE	105	
	You're right. The plants look greener and shinier.		*

The kids look down at the grass. Olive points to a spiderweb.

106	OLIVE (CONT'D)	106	
	Whoa, that spiderweb has raindrops sticking to it. It looks SO sparkly.		*
			*
			*

107	ELINOR	107	
	(she sniffs)		
	And the air smells really fresh.		*

108	OLIVE	108
	Wow, the rain gives us soo much - Whoops!	

SPLASH! Elinor and Olive get splashed with some big drops. They look over to see Ari, laughingly apologetically.

109	ARI	109
	Sorry, I couldn't resist.	

110	ELINOR	110
	(laughing)	
	That's okay, Ari.	

111 OLIVE 111
I think you found the BEST thing
rain gives us.

Olive and Elinor look at each other, smile, then JUMP...

112 OLIVE (CONT'D) 112
PUDDLES!!!!!!

As the kids laugh and play in the puddle, <SFX: LAUGHING AND
PUDDLE JUMPING WALLA> we...

*

IRIS OUT:

THE END