ELINOR WONDERS WHY

137 INTERSTITIAL: SENOR TAPIR

Written by

LAURA SAMS

FOLLOWS: “ELINOR'S FISHY FRIEND”

CURRICULUM: Juan Manuel Guayasamin followed his curiosity to explore the rainforests of Ecuador, and he and his team have discovered lots of new species of frogs, including rainfrogs, glassfrogs and a frog that can change its skin from spiny to smooth.

LS6. Understand that individuals of the same kind of plant or animal are recognizable as similar but can also vary in many ways:
a. Contrast individuals of the same kinds of plant and animal

FIRST DRAFT: 04-20-20
SECOND DRAFT: 05-04-20

1. EXT RIVER -- DAY

Open on Senor Tapir with his guitar, sitting by the river. A group of kids sit near him, including Elinor.

Close on a tree frog that <CROAKS> on the side of a tree trunk. Elinor perks up and her ears swivel toward the sound.

1 ELINOR 1
I hear a frog!

Close on a different frog, a chorus frog, which <CROAKS> while sitting on the edge of the river. Elinor's ears swivel the other way toward that sound.

2 ELINOR (CONT'D) 2
Ooh, I hear another frog! *
(pondering) I wonder how many
different kinds of frogs there are. *

3 SENOR TAPIR 3 *
Well, let's sing a song about a *
scientist named Juan M Guayasamin,
who wondered the same thing! He
followed his curiosity into the
forests of Ecuador to look for new *
kinds of frogs.

Senor Tapir starts to sing. After a line or two, we transition to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing. (Note: I wrote these lyrics to a Latin rhythm and melody in my head. It would be awesome to have a Latin inspired vibe since he is from Ecuador).

4 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 4
(singing)
Juan M Guayasamin...

2. EXT. ECUADOR TROPICAL FOREST -- DAY

Juan M. Guayasamin (Juan requests a Llama or Andean Bear) *
pops into frame among the tropical plants of an Ecuadorian cloud forest.

5 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 5
Grew up in Ecuador,
And wondered if he could find,
Frogs that nobody's seen before.

Close on an Ecuadorian rainfrog, a bright lime green frog with stripes, sitting on a tropical leaf. Juan's face pops into frame to look closely and excitedly at the frog.

Juan looks at a tiny green glassfrog (see this article for the exact kind, plus picture references to seeing its organs: https://www.sciencefocus.com/nature/newly-discovered-frog-species-has-a-visible-heart/). The frog is balancing on a thin stick, and Juan crouches down to look up at its underside and abdomen, so we can see its transparent skin, its organs and its heart. *

6 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 6 *

Juan found new rainfrogs,
Wow! Look at those stripes!
Juan found new glassfrogs,
Wow! You can see their insides!

Juan happily walks through the tropical forest. He excitedly points at a leaf and leans to look closely at an Ecuadorian rainfrog. Juan keeps walking and turns to inspect another awesome frog, Las Gralarias rainfrog, which has some red, green and brown coloring. Close on Juan's face as he looks up to see different kinds of frogs appear around his head, as if he is remembering them.

7 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 7

You know its...
So much fun finding frogs in the forest,
So much fun finding frogs in the forest,
Weird and wonderful frogs in the forest,
In Ecuador.

Juan searches intently through the forest, looking under leaves. At first, he doesn't see any frogs. He keeps searching, and finally, he excitedly points to a leaf where we see a little horned marsupial frog on a tropical plant. Close on the frog's face, then close on the pointy horns on its head above its eyes. *

8 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 8

Juan started looking *
For a frog folks thought was gone, *
But he just kept searching *
And said 'Wow! I think I see one!' *

Juan happily walks through the tropical forest. He excitedly points at a leaf and leans in to look closely at another horned marsupial frog. Close on Juan's face as he looks up at all the frogs we saw earlier, which appear around his head, as if he is remembering them. *

9 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 9

You know it's...
So much fun finding frogs in the forest,
So much finding frogs in the forest,
Juan finds wonderful frogs in the forest,
In Ecuador.

3. EXT. RIVER -- DAY

As soon as Senor Tapir finishes singing his song, the tree frog <CROAKS>.

10 ELINOR 10

(to Senor Tapir)
I think that frog wants to sing with you.

Senor Tapir and the kids <WALLA LAUGH>.

Close on the tree frog's face as it <CROAKS> one final time.