

ELINOR WONDERS WHY
EWW141 The Zig Zag Plant
By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: Which way do plants grow?

Logline: Elinor and friends find a plant that grew in a zig zag, which teaches them that plants grow upwards.

Curriculum Goals:

LS1b: Record observations about an animal's or plant's physical appearance [they record the shape of the plants]

LS3. Understand that all animals need food in order to live and grow, that they get their food from plants or from other animals, and that plants need water and light to live and grow:

a. Observe ways that animals and plants get what they need to live and grow [Most plants grow up (against gravity) and some also grow towards the sun.]

c. Help care for living things at home or in the classroom [they take care of plants in their classroom]

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 (The kids ask questions as they try to figure out what happened to the zig-zag plant).

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

d. plan and conduct simple investigations using simple tools (Using the magnifying glass and the notebook, the kids plan their investigation of the zig-zag plant).

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data

d. Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem, and why it might have happened (The kids consider the evidence and reflect on what might have happened to the zig-zag plant).

SEP5. Using mathematics and computational thinking

d. Use measurement tools to measure and quantify properties of observable phenomena and objects (Olive measure the seedlings using books as unit of measure).

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 (science) or solution to a problem (engineering) (The kids use their knowledge of the ways plants grow (always up) and the evidence they gather to try and

understand why the zig-zag plant has grown so differently than the other seedlings)

SEP7. Engaging in argument from evidence

a. Engage in discussions before, during, and after investigations

b. Support thinking and argue ideas with evidence (After engaging in discussion of the evidence, the kids come up with a reasonable idea of what happened to the zig-zag plant).

MAINS: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mz. Mole

SECONDARY: Camilla, Sally, Koa

LOCATIONS: EXT. School, Animal Town

PROPS: seedlings, zig-zag seedling, books, crayon, magnifying glass

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1. EXT ELINOR'S SCHOOL -- DAY

It's another bright sunny day in Animal Town. ELINOR and OLIVE are outside looking at a low table set outside their classroom, on the playground side. Other classmates are playing in the yard. On the table are rows of tiny seedling plants in small pots.

1	ELINOR	1	
	Olive, look how much our little baby plants have grown.		*
2	OLIVE	2	
	Wow, Elinor! And it's only been a few days!		
3	ELINOR	3	
	I wonder how tall they're going to get?		
4	OLIVE	4	
	I hope they grow as tall as me!		
5	ELINOR	5	
	I hope they grow as tall as ME... and my ears!		

They giggle. With her ears, Elinor is taller than Olive. Behind them, their friend ARI is practicing some acrobatics.

6	ARI	6	
	Ok, this time I'm SURE I'm going to land it. 1,2,... backflip!		

He does a flip, flapping wildly with his wings, but landing flat on his stomach.

7	OLIVE	7	
	Ari, are you ok?		
8	ARI	8	
	I'm OK. Maybe I should have counted to three.		

The girls giggle and help him up. Their teacher MZ. MOLE comes over, holding a BOOK.

9	MZ. MOLE	9	
	Whoops, be careful there, Ari. Alright, how are our little class plants doing today, kids?		

They gather around the seedling table. Elinor points to the plants.

10 ELINOR 10
They are doing so well, Mz. Mole!
We planted the seeds just a few
days ago, and look how tall they've
grown!

Olive points to her pot.

11 OLIVE 11
Yeah! I love how they're all
growing straight up out of the
ground.

The girls pose as the plants and stand straight up and tall --
Elinor on her toes with her ears together and Olive using her
trunk to stretch.

12 MZ. MOLE 12
That's right! Plants always grow
upwards, no matter where you plant
them. Here, let me show you.

She opens up her book and flips through a few pages.

13 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 13
They grow upwards if you plant them
in a field...

14 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 14
Or on a hill...

15 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 15
Or on a steep mountain...

Kids <SFX: WALLA "WHOA!">.

16 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 16
Or even on the side of a cliff!

17 ARI 17
Wow! That's so cool!

Elinor turns to the class plants.

18 ELINOR 18
C'mon, little plants! You can do
it! Grow up, up, up!

19 OLIVE 19
Let's measure how tall they are.

20 ELINOR 20
Good idea! What can we measure
with?

Olive takes a crayon out of her bag.

21 OLIVE 21
Here! Our plants are... about a
crayon high.

22 ARI 22
Hey! Usually we DRAW observations
with crayons. Olive can DO
observations with them too!

23 MZ. MOLE 23
I love it! Ok, school is almost
over, so let's water the little
plants. Make sure you give them a
little extra today.

The kids go get the watering can.

24 ELINOR 24
Why do they need extra water, Mz.
Mole? Are they extra thirsty?

They work together and start to water the plants.

25 MZ. MOLE 25
Well, Elinor, tomorrow is the
weekend, and there's no school for
two days. So there won't be anybody
here to water them!

26 OLIVE 26
I forgot about that!

27 ARI 27
Wow, two days without school will
give me lots of time to practice my
backflips!

The kids finish watering the plants and set down the watering
can.

28 MZ. MOLE 28
Oh, I'm sure you'll find lots of
ways to have fun.

29 ELINOR 29
I can't wait to see how much the
plants have grown by then.

30 OLIVE 30
Me too!

The kids in the playground file into the classroom, followed by Mz. Mole, Elinor, Olive and Ari. As they walk in, Ari stays behind.

31

ARI

31

One more backflip before the weekend... Oof! Awww...

Ari tries again, but doesn't quite land it. He picks himself up and runs inside. The camera lingers on one of the seedlings, which has been accidentally knocked over.

2. EXT ANIMAL TOWN

We see the sun set, the night pass, and the sun rise over Animal Town. Over music, we see a montage of scenes of the kids having fun on the weekend:

- Elinor and Olive reading a huge stack of books
- Ari practicing a backflip

We see the sun set, the night pass, and the sun rise over Animal Town. We see a montage of scenes of the kids having more fun:

- Elinor and Olive looking at plants in Elinor's backyard
- Ari practicing a backflip

We see the sun set, the night pass, and the sun rise over Animal Town.

3. EXT ELINOR'S SCHOOL -- TWO DAYS LATER

It's the start of a new school day. Elinor and Olive run towards the school and catch Mz. Mole as she is opening the door to the school.

32

ELINOR/OLIVE

32

Good morning, Mz. Mole!

33

MZ. MOLE

33

Well well, you're both here bright and early!

34

ELINOR (PANTING)

34

We just... couldn't... wait

35

OLIVE (PANTING)

35

To... see... how much...

36 ELINOR (NOW RECOVERED) 36
The plants grew!

37 OLIVE 37
They've been growing the whole weekend! I wonder how tall they got?

Mz. Mole opens the door and Elinor and Olive run in.

38 MZ. MOLE 38
Oh my!

The kids rush in, hurriedly drop their things in the cubbies and head for the door to the playground. Mz. Mole <SFX: CHUCKLES> to herself as more kids start coming in.

4. EXT SCHOOL -- DAY

Elinor and Olive rush out and run over to go check on the seedlings, which are now taller.

39 ELINOR 39
Wow, look how much they grew!

40 OLIVE 40
They are so much taller, I hardly recognize them.

41 ELINOR 41
Let's measure them!

Olive takes out some crayons.

42 OLIVE 42
One... TWO crayons high!

43 ELINOR 43
Good job little plants! I knew you would grow taller.

Ari blows in. He sets down his lunch box and spots Elinor and Olive.

44 ARI 44
Hi, Elinor and Olive! Guess what? I spent the WHOLE weekend practicing my backflip. Ready to check it out?

45 ELINOR 45
Sure, Ari!

46	ARI	46
	Prepare to be impressed. 1,2,3...	
	hup!	

Ari tries a backflip, with a bit more effort, but still can't quite land it. He flaps his wings more wildly and ends up on his stomach again.

47 ARI (CONT'D) 47
Oof! Maybe I should've counted to
four!

Olive helps him up.

48 ARI (CONT'D) 48
I don't get it. I practiced for two
whole days!

He dusts himself off.

49	ARI (CONT'D)	49
	Wait, it's been two days since we	
	checked our plants. How are they	
	doing?	

50 ELINOR 50
Olive and I just measured them and
they are TWO CRAYONS high!

51 ARI 51
Wow, they grew a lot!

Ari inspects the plants, and as we pan on them, the kids notice something odd: all the plants are pointing up, but one plant looks like a zig-zag!

52 OLIVE 52
Whoa! Look at that plant. It looks
like... a ziq-zag?

53 ELINOR 53
 <GASP!> It does! That's amazing.

54 ARI 54

Hey, it's just like me. The only
thing more amazing than my zigs are
my ZAGS.

Ari does some zig-zags, and the kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Elinor goes back to the plant.

55 ELINOR 55
That is SO INTERESTING. I wonder
why this plant looks like a zig-zag
and the others don't?

56 OLIVE 56
Yeah, all the other plants look
like they grew straight up.

57 ARI 57
Hmmm, maybe it's a different *kind*
of plant?

58 ELINOR 58
Good idea, Ari! But... Hmm, the
leaves look like they're the same
shape. I think it's the same kind
of plant.

59 OLIVE 59
But why would *this* plant grow in a
different shape?

60 ELINOR 60
Maybe it has a different kind of
dirt in the pot. (thinks about it,
then) We need MORE observations!

Elinor takes out her magnifying glass and gives the plant a
careful look. The POV pans between the bases of the zig zag
plant and a few other plants.

61 ELINOR (CONT'D) 61
The dirt looks the same... but
wait, what's this?

The POV spots a little mound of dirt near the zig zag plant.

62 ELINOR (CONT'D) 62
There's a little pile of dirt
there. I don't remember seeing that
before.

63 OLIVE 63
Me either.

64 ARI (MYSTERIOUSLY) 64
Oooh... It's a mystery!

65 ELINOR 65
You're right Ari, and this our
first clue!

66 OLIVE 66
But what does it mean?

67 ELINOR 67
Hmm, I don't know...

68 ARI 68
We need a clue, about our clue!

69 OLIVE 69
Maybe we should look for more
clues?

70 ELINOR 70
That's a great idea, Olive! Let's
look for more clues!

The kids march in a line, following Elinor who is stooping
low and looking at everything through the magnifying glass.
They do a quick loop around the immediate area.

71 OLIVE 71
Did you find anything?

72 ELINOR 72
I didn't see anything.

73 ARI 73
I found my lunch box!

Ari takes out an apple from this lunch box and starts
munching on it.

74 OLIVE 74
What else can we try?

Elinor examines the little pile of dirt again.

75 ELINOR 75
Hmmm, something must have happened
that made the dirt spill. I know!
Let's ask the other kids to see if
they know what happened to make the
plant grow like a zig zag!

76 OLIVE 76
Oooh, yes! I'll take notes.

Olive takes out her notebook and the kids head out to the
playground, where there are other kids playing.

5. EXT PLAYGROUND -- SERIES OF CUTS

Like in a detective story, we see a series of short cuts of our three main kids interviewing potential witnesses.

77 OLIVE 77

Camilla, do you know why one of the
plants grew like a zig zag?

78 CAMILLA 78

I'm so glad you said plants. I was just thinking about the beautiful petunias that my mom planted in our garden. Really, my mom plants the best plants. She plants roses and poppies and... Oh, those roses smell SO nice, and...

The kids look at each other.

79 ELINOR 79
Um, Camilla, what does this have to
do with the class plants?

80 CAMILLA 80
Oh. We have class plants?

81 OLIVE 81
Uh, we'll come back later.

Cut to Koa:

82 ELINOR 82
Koa, do you know why one of the
class plants grew in a zig zag?

83 KOA 83
Mmmm nope.

84 OLIVE 84
Did you see anything happen to
them?

85 KOA 85

Mmmm nope.

86 ELINOR 86
Have you ever seen a plant grow in
a zig zag before?

87 KOA 87

Mmmm nope.

88 ARI 88
Do you ever say anything besides
"nope"?

89 KOA 89
Mmmm (thinks about it) Yup.

Cut to Sally:

90 ARI 90
Sally, do you know why one of the
plants grew in a zig zag?

91 SALLY (NERVOUSLY) 91
It wasn't me. Oh no. Not me. I
wasn't even there. Nope. Is the
plant ok? Oh my. Should we call the
plant doctor? I was over here
playing the whole time. (after a
beat) Wait, did you say the plant
grew in a zig zag??

Elinor, Olive and Ari look at each other and <SFX: SIGH>.

6. EXT SCHOOL -- PLANT TABLE

The kids return to the table with the plants, having made no progress.

92 ELINOR 92
Hmm, no one knows what happened to
make the plant grow like a zig zag.

93 OLIVE 93
Well, we WERE the last ones to
leave school that day. And I don't
remember seeing anything happen to
the plants.

Elinor has an idea.

94 ELINOR 94
I have an idea. Let's think about
what happened that day.

Elinor walks through her memory of Friday, starting from the table and walking off a few steps.

95 ELINOR (CONT'D) 95
Hmm, I remember we were right here
talking to Mz. Mole just before we
went home.

96 OLIVE 96
I remember that! She said plants
always grow up, no matter where you
plant them. We also watered the
plants.

97 ELINOR 97
Yeah, and then I think we went
home.

Ari realizes something.

98 ARI 98
Wait! I just remembered: I
practiced my backflip just as we
were leaving. I was standing right
here and... hup!

He tries a flip again (fails) and as he flips, his wing
knocks over the zig zag plant, spilling a SECOND PILE of
dirt. Elinor notices.

99 ELINOR 99
Look! Ari knocked over the plant
and spilled a little bit of dirt,
just like the other little pile.

100 ARI 100
Oops, sorry.

101 OLIVE 101
Ari! Maybe you knocked over the
plant when we left before the
weekend, and that's how the first
pile of dirt got there.

102 ELINOR 102
That means the plant was on its
SIDE when we went home. Hmmm...

Science CU: Plant is still on its side. Elinor examines the
first bend in the zig zag. She follows the plant out of the
dirt and then up as it turns towards the sky.

103 ELINOR (CONT'D) 103
Now THIS part of the plant is going
up! I think that's a clue!

104 ARI 104
What do you mean? I'm still
clueless.

A thought bubble illustrates Elinor's hypothesizing.

105

ELINOR

105

First, the plant grew upwards, just like all the other plants. Then, it got knocked over, and left a pile of dirt. So, it was on its side all weekend. Plants always grow UPWARDS, so the plant must have changed which way it was growing to go up!

In the thought bubble, we see a recreation of the events: The little plant grows up, gets knocked over by Ari, then we see a close of the plant as it changes direction of growth.

106

OLIVE

106

That's just like in Mz. Mole's book! Plants grow up, no matter which way the ground is.

107

ELINOR

107

That's right!

108

ARI

108

Yay! We figured it out! <beat> But wait a second. That explains the first zig, but what about the zag?

As he says, "zig" and "zag" Ari bends his body and head to mimic the plant.

109

OLIVE

109

(looking at the plant)
Yeah, why did it bend one way and then bend back?

110

ELINOR

110

And I just remembered: when we got here this morning, the plant wasn't on its side.

The kids look puzzled again. Mz. Mole walks by.

111

MZ. MOLE

111

Hello, kids. Oh, did that plant get knocked over again?

Mz. Mole stops and puts the plant right-side up again. Elinor reacts <SFX: GASP!> to this.

112

ELINOR

112

We need to talk to Mz. Mole and ask her questions, too!

113	OLIVE	113
	Yeah!	
	Olive flips a new page in her notebook.	
114	ELINOR	114
	Mz. Mole, can we ask you some questions?	
115	MZ. MOLE	115
	Of course!	
116	ELINOR	116
	Why did you say his plant got knocked over AGAIN?	
117	MZ. MOLE	117
	Well, because it had been knocked over before. I came into school during the weekend to prepare some things for today, and I found that little plant on its side. So I sat the plant pot straight up again.	
	The kids look momentarily puzzled, but then understanding breaks through.	
118	ELINOR	118
	<GASP!> I think I know what happened!	
119	OLIVE	119
	Me too!	
120	ARI	120
	And me!	
	As they talk, we see the full story in a thought bubble with their narration.	
121	ELINOR	121
	This little plant started growing up, just like all the others...	
122	ARI	122
	But then I knocked it over, which put it on its side.	
123	OLIVE	123
	And so the plant changed the way it was growing and made a zig to keep growing upwards.	

124 ELINOR 124
But then Mz. Mole set the pot right
side up again.

125 ARI 125
So the plant had to turn AGAIN to
keep growing up! Zig and then zag!

126 ELINOR 126
That's it! We solved the mystery!
If you put a plant sideways and
then right side up, it will grow
like a zig zag!

127 OLIVE 127
Because plants always grow UP!

On their positive energy, we segue into a ditty:

128 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 128
Up, up, up!
Plants will grow up
No matter which way
Is the ground they're on

Up on a mountain
Or on a hillside
Plants will grow
Up to the sky!

This little plant
Zigged and zagged
What could have made
It grow like that?

Up, up, up!
Plants grow up
No matter which way
Is the ground they're on

We end the song montage on a shot of the zig zag plant.

129 ELINOR 129
Mz. Mole, do you think its OK that
the plant grew like that?

130 MZ. MOLE 130
Of course! A plant will always find
a way to grow upwards, even if it
takes a zig and a zag.

131 OLIVE 131
Well, I think it looks pretty cool.

132	ARI	132
	I think it looks... awesome!	

Ari cheers and in his excitement, jumps and does a backflip. This time, he lands it!

133 ARI (CONT'D) 133
 <GASP!> I did it! I did a backflip!

134 ELINOR 134
Wow, Ari, how did you do it?

135 ARI 135
Well, I did just like the plant and
went up, up, UP!

He flips again, and on laughter and merriment, we...

END