

ELINOR WONDERS WHY
EWW149 Turtle Crossing
By Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: Why does the turtle cross the road?

Logline: Elinor and her friends are having a blast riding on the new bike path in the park, until they keep getting interrupted by turtles crossing the road.

Curriculum Goals; LS5. Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs:

b. Identify the habitats of familiar animals and plants in the environment

c. Recognize that each kind of living things has a habitat that has resources to meet its unique needs (Elinor and her friends observe the turtles' interaction with their environment on land and in the pond)

ES3. Understand that things people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them, but they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things:

a. Ask questions about and discuss examples of how humans use Earth's resources (including soil and water) to meet their needs

b. Demonstrate an awareness of and the ability to discuss in simple terms the need for conservation, recycling, and respect for the environment

c. Participate in simple activities to care for the environment (Elinor and her friends come to realize their new bike path cuts through the turtles' route to the pond, so they create a detour).

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

c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation

d. Identify a problem that can be solved by the design a new or improved object or tool (engineering) (Elinor and her friends ask questions about the cause of the turtle crossing the road, and the effect of it doing so - and they decide they need to improve the design of the bike path).

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

d. With guidance, plan and conduct simple investigations using simple tools

e. Design and build a solution to a simple problem (engineering) (Elinor and her friends investigate the turtle's habitat, then decide to change the route of the bike path).

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data

c. Record observations to describe patterns and/or relationships in the natural and designed world(s) in order to answer scientific questions and solve problems.

d. Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem, and why it might

have happened (The kids observe the behavior of the turtles, then discuss what is happening and why it is occurring)
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) (The kids observe the behavior of some of the turtles, then extrapolate that all of the turtles will have the same road-crossing problem, and use that evidence to support their idea that the bike path route must change).

OUTLINE - August 8, 2019
FIRST DRAFT - September 12, 2019

EXT. BIKE PATH (BESIDE TURTLE POND) -- DAY

ELINOR, OLIVE and ARI are having a blast riding along the brand new (dirt) bike-path beside the pond <SFX: EXCITED CHEERS> as Ari narrates like a sports announcer.

1	ARI	1
	(like a sports announcer)	
	WOOO-HOOO!!! Here come the Animal	
	Town Racers, zooming around the NEW	
	BIKE PATH!	

Ari has a cool big-wheel trike, Elinor has a scooter, and Olive has a brand-new balance bike. They all have nifty bike helmets (of course!) and they all LOVE going fast!

2	ARI (CONT'D)	2
	(announcing)	
	Awesome Ari is in the lead, but	
	here comes Elinor the Racing Rabbit	
	and now they're neck and neck. They	
	are both really whipping along, but	
	wait, what's this?	
	(OLIVE is gaining on her new	
	balance-bike.)	
	It's OLIVE THE INCREDIBLE!! Coming	
	from behind and taking the lead!	

Olive zips by proudly.

3	ELINOR	3
	Whoa Olive, you're really good on	
	your new balance bike.	

4	OLIVE	4
	(proudly)	
	Thanks!	

5	ARI	5
	Look at her GOOOOOO!!	

They zip around a turn, Olive in front when she sees something. Her eyes widen.

6	OLIVE	6
	Uh-oh!	

<SFX: SCREECH> - she slams on the brakes (her feet) and behind her Elinor and Ari both have to swerve (gently) to avoid collision.

7	ARI	7
	What's up, Olive?	

8 ELINOR 8
Why did you stop so fast?

Olive points.

9 OLIVE 9
Look!

ANGLE ON: a sweet little baby turtle is trundling across the bike-path.

10 ELINOR 10
Whoa, a TURTLE!

11 ARI 11
How cool is that?

The kids rush over and admire the little terrapin as it slowly makes its way across the path. Ari narrates the turtle's progress.

12 ARI (CONT'D) 12
(like a slow sports announcer)
And here's the turtle, putting out one foot forwards, now it's stepping on it's foot, now it's moving it's whooooole body, and now it's taking a little breather.
(the turtle stops for a beat, then starts moving again.)
Whoops, it looks like the turtle is moving it's other foot - no, wait.
(turtle stops)
Another breather. This is going to take some time.

Elinor is encouraging, but Olive is starting to get worried.

13 ELINOR 13
Come on little turtle, you can do it!

14 OLIVE 14
Hurry, turtle, you have to get off the path! What if other bikers come? You might get hit if they don't see you in time.

15 ARI 15
Hmmm. Good point, Olive.

16 ELINOR 16
We'd better guard this turtle.

So the kids take their places as turtle guards (maybe linking arms and moving slowly as the turtle progresses). They warn MZ. MOLE as she zips by in a pedal-cart with an awning, or something cool.

17 ELINOR (CONT'D) 17
Careful, Mz. Mole, turtle crossing.

Mz. Mole slowly down and carefully drives around the turtle, smiling and waving as she rides off. Next comes KOA on his skateboard.

18 OLIVE 18
Go slow, please, Koa. Turtle on the road.

Koa slowly and adroitly skates around. Ari looks over at the turtle. ANGLE ON: It has reached the other side of the path.

19 ARI 19
(announcer)
Annnd it looks like, YES! The turtle has done it! It's crossed the path!

The turtle makes its way into the long bulrushes on the other side (we hear a small SPLASH, but the kids don't notice).

20 ELINOR 20
YAY!

21 ARI 21
See you later, turtle friend-o.

22 OLIVE 22
Now that the turtle is safe...RACE
YA!!!

The kids jump on their vehicles and zoom off.

EXT. BIKE PATH (AROUND THE LOOP) -- DAY

The kids are happily racing again.

23	ARI	23
	(announcer)	
	And here's Elinor the racing	
	rabbit, scooting on her scooter,	
	with Awesome Ari on his trike right	
	beside but - here comes Olive the	
	Incredible once again!	

Olive grins as she takes her place in the lead.

24 OLIVE 24
(giggling)
I can't help it. I just LOVE going
fast!

25 ELINOR 25
That's because you're soo good at
biking, Olive.

26	ARI	26
	(announcer)	
	Olive the Incredible is in the lead	
	with the need for speed! WHOO-HOO!	

AERIAL VIEW - shows the kids zipping around the loop and having a great time. Although they weave in and out, Olive is usually in the lead. From this vantage point we can clearly see the shape of the trail -- a loop BESIDE the pond: (DESIGN NOTE: there should be a little grassy area on the other side of the road from the pond, where we will find the turtle nest).

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: This can be a direct down shot so we see helmets and the tops of their bikes. Not 3/4 down shot as animating them on bikes as they go around in a circle will be a real challenge from this perspective.

EXT. BIKE PATH (NEAR TURTLE POND) - MINUTES LATER

The kids end up at the same place.

[illegible]

Olive stops in a cloud of dust with Elinor and Ari close behind.

28 ELINOR 28
There's the turtle again.

ANGLE ON: A little turtle is crossing the bike path sooo slowly (and headed in the same direction).

29 ARI 29
We'd better guard it.

The kids guard the turtle as LOLA skates by on her roller skates and maybe MR. DOG on one of those nifty Squidward bikes.

ANGLE ON: The turtle makes it across the road.

WIDEN: The kids hop back on their vehicles and take off.

AERIAL VIEW: they zoom around the loop beside the pond one more time and...

ANGLE ON: Olive.

30 OLIVE 30

Huh?!

ANGLE ON: A turtle in the middle of the path.

31 OLIVE (CONT'D) 31
The turtle is back AGAIN?

ARI
How can that be?

The kids get off their vehicles and resume their guarding positions until the turtle makes it across.

33 ELINOR 33
Why does the turtle keep crossing
the road?

34 OLIVE 34
Uhhh, to get to the other side?

35 ELINOR 35
(giggling)
Yeah, but why? And it keeps going
the same direction - from here - to
here.

36 ARI 36
Maybe it forgot it's lunch at home
and had to go back. I do that
aaalllll the time.

37 OLIVE 37
Or maybe it just likes crossing
roads.

At this moment MARY and LIZ pedal by on a bicycle-built-for-two.

38 ARI 38
Excuse me, turtle crossing.

They go around.

39 OLIVE 39
We can't guard the turtle all day.
What if it decides to cross when
we're not here? We have to figure
this out.

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40                                ELINOR                                40
    We need MORE observations.  Follow
    that turtle!

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The kids follow the turtle through the long grass and bulrushes at the side of the path to...

EXT. POND -- DAY

The kids part the bulrushes and reveal <SFX: Wooooow>.

ANGLE ON: A magical little hidden cove, and lazing in the shallow water are three little turtles and one big momma.

41	ELINOR	41
	Wait a minute - it's not just ONE	
	turtle.	

42	OLIVE	42
	It's one, two, THREE little turtles.	

43 ARI 43
And a big turtle too.

44 ELINOR 44
So it wasn't the same turtle
crossing the road.

45	OLIVE	45
	It was a different turtle each	
	time.	

46 ARI 46
I guess they were coming to float
in the pond.

47 OLIVE 47
Yeah, but what were they doing on
the other side of the road in the
first place?

48	ELINOR	48
	Let's go and check it out. We need even MORE observations.	

EXT. BIKE PATH - DAY

The kids cross the path and enter the grassy spot on the other side.

EXT. TURTLE NEST - DAY

The kids' faces light up as they find their answer <SFX: GASP>

ANGLE ON: a nest with three more baby turtles and six broken eggshells.

49	OLIVE	49
	More little turtles!	

50	ELINOR	50
	And broken eggshells. What's that all about?	

51	ARI	51
	Maybe the turtles had scrambled eggs for breakfast.	

52	OLIVE	52
	Hmmm. Good idea, but I don't think turtles can cook, Ari.	

53	ELINOR	53
	Maybe the little turtles came OUT of the eggs?	

54	OLIVE	54
	You mean they hatched? Like baby birds?	

55	ELINOR	55
	Yes!	

56	OLIVE	56
	That makes sense.	

ANGLE ON: One of the baby turtles rouses itself and makes its way out of the nest.

57	ARI	57
	Uh-oh, this little one is on the move.	

58 ELINOR 58
Wait a minute...
(observing the eggshells and
putting it together)
The babies must have hatched on
this side of the bike path.

59 OLIVE 59
But now they want to get to the
pond on the other side.

60	ARI	60
	So that's why they keep crossing	
	the road.	
	(noticing turtle)	
	And there it goes.	

The baby turtle makes its way to the bike path.

EXT. BIKE PATH -- DAY

As Elinor and Ari guard this latest little travelling turtle, Olive makes notes in her book.

61	OLIVE	61
	Okay, now we know the problem.	
	It's THIS!	

ANGLE ON: Olive's notebook, she'd made a little drawing of the pond with the bike path beside it, the nest on the other side and a turtle on the path (maybe an arrow to show direction?).

62 ELINOR 62
The new bike path goes right
through the path the turtle's take
from the nest to the pond.

63 OLIVE 63
That's not fair, the turtles were
here first.

64 ELINOR 64
You're right, Olive.

65 ARI 65
We should do something.

At that moment Ranger Rabbit shows up.

66 RANGER RABBIT 66
Well if it isn't the Animal Town
racers - how goes the new bike
path?

67 ELINOR 67
Not good Mom.

68 OLIVE 68
We keep getting stopped.

69 ARI 69
By TURTLES!

70 RANGER RABBIT 70
Turtles?

71 ELINOR 71
Yes, see.

She parts the bushes beside the trail, Mom takes a look.

ANGLE ON: The turtle nest.

72 RANGER RABBIT 72
Oooh, I do see. So Momma turtle
made her nest in this dry sandy
spot...turtles do that.

73 OLIVE 73
And then she laid EGGS.

74 ARI 74
And when the babies hatched, they
headed straight for the pond.

75 ELINOR 75
Right across the new bike path.

76 RANGER RABBIT 76
Oh, dear.

77 OLIVE 77
See?

Olive shows her drawing to Ranger Rabbit.

78 RANGER RABBIT 78
(impressed)
This is very helpful, Olive.
(to all three)
(MORE)

RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D)

It's my job to take care of all the animals in the Park, but I didn't realize the bike path put the turtles in danger. Well done, kids. Let's solve this problem together. What do you think we should do?

The kids all think, then...

79 ARI 79
I've got it! Parachutes!!

THOUGHT BUBBLE: Show turtles in parachutes landing safely in the pond.

80	OLIVE	80
	Uh, okay? But how would we get the	
	turtles up into the sky in the	
	first place?	

81 ARI 81
Uhh, a turtle launcher?

THOUGHT BUBBLE: Shows the "Turtle Launcher". It can just be a "teeter-totter" type deal, or something more elaborate (Designers have fun!) A turtle steps into place wearing a helmet and a parachute and is launched.

82 RANGER RABBIT 82
I'm not sure that's safe Ari. Even
with parachutes.

The turtle lands in a tree.

83 ARI 83
I guess you're right.

THOUGHT BUBBLE BURSTS:

84 ELINOR 84
You know there's really only one
thing to do that's fair.

85 OLIVE 85
What's that?

86 ELINOR 86
Like you said, Olive, the turtles
were here first. We need to move
our bike path.

87 OLIVE 87
 You mean, like this?

ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE (CONT'D)
Think of the animals
Already there
Take care, take care
When you're out in nature
Remember to share.

EXT. NEW BIKE PATH - LATER

ANGLE ON: Olive's design in her notebook. CROSSFADE TO:
AERIAL VIEW: they've detoured the bike path around the turtle nest.

ANGLE ON: Elinor, Ari, Ranger Rabbit and Mrs. Beaver are admiring their handiwork (Elinor is holding Olive's design).

93	RANGER RABBIT	93
	Nice job everyone. Now the turtles will be safe as Animal Town racers ride AROUND them.	
94	MRS. BEAVER	94
	And we couldn't have done it without you kids.	
95	ELINOR	95
	No problem Mrs. Beaver.	
96	ARI	96
	We love to help out. It's what we do.	
97	ELINOR	97
	Hey, where's Olive?	
98	OLIVE	98
	(calling) Over here!	

Ari and Elinor rush to see what Olive's doing.

ANGLE ON: She is just putting the finishing touches to the handmade "Turtle Crossing" sign she's drawn.

99	ELINOR	99
	Whoa, great turtle drawing.	
100	ARI	100
	Another reason we call you...OLIVE THE INCREDIBLE!!	
101	OLIVE	101
	It's a turtle crossing sign so everyone will know to watch out.	

She attaches her drawing to a stick and sticks it into the ground.

102	RANGER RABBIT	102
	Very nice, Olive. We'll put it beside the turtle's path to the pond, that way everyone will be careful even if they're not on the bike path.	

103 MRS. BEAVER 103
And the turtles can go as slowly as
they want.

At this moment, right on cue, the second-last little turtle struggles out of the grass and begins his long, slow trek.

104 OLIVE 104
Awww, what a sweetie.

105	ELINOR	105
	Take as long as you like, little one.	

106	ARI	106
	(slow announcer)	
	Annnnd, here's the little turtle, on it's way to the pond. It puts out one foot, then mooooves its whole body, then is it going to take another step? Uhm, not sure...but we know how this is going to go, folks - sloooooowly.	

A beat.

107 OLIVE 107
 Yep, that turtle sure does go slow.

Another beat.

108 ELINOR 108
REALLY slow.

Olive smiles at her friends.

109 OLIVE 109
Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

CU: On Elinor who smiles, she gets it.

110 ELINOR 110
You mean, while the turtle is going
slow, we can go...

WIDEN TO REVEAL: The kids are now on their vehicles.

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111          ...FAST!
111          ELINOR (CONT'D)
111

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They blast off down the bike path, enjoying their speed.

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112                                ARI                                112
                                (fast announcer)
                                And here's the Animal Town Racers,
                                blasting around their NEW BIKE
                                PATH, away from the turtles who
                                like to go slow - not like our
                                Racers -- WHOO-HOOOO!

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IRIS OUT, THE END