

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
SECOND DRAFT: October 4, 2019

1	EXT. BIKE PATH (BESIDE TURTLE POND) -- DAY	1	
	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 (like a sports announcer, loud, biking effort) WOOO-HOOO!!! Here come the Animal Town Racers, zooming around the BRAND NEW BIKE PATH!	1	* * *
	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) (announcing, projecting, effort) 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 around the big bend, 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!	2	* * * *
	Olive zips by proudly.		
3	ELINOR (panting a little) Whoa Olive, you're really good on your new balance bike.	3	*
4	OLIVE (panting, proudly) Thanks!	4	*
5	ARI (projecting) Look at her GOOOOOO!! Now that's what I call FAST!	5	* * *
	They zip around a turn, Olive in front when she sees something. Her eyes widen.		
6	OLIVE Uh-oh!	6	

<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	
	Whoa!! 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	
	A baby 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 one foot forwards really slooowly, 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.)		*
	Hold on, 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? *
(she looks up the path) *
They might hit you. *

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 comically 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
Oh, here comes Mz. Mole. Careful,
Mz. Mole, turtle crossing. *

Mz. Mole slowly down and carefully drives around the turtle *
and the kids, who move aside to let her pass, 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.

2 **EXT. BIKE PATH (AROUND THE LOOP) -- DAY** 2

The kids are happily racing again.

23 ARI 23

(announcer)

And here's Elinor the racing
rabbit, scooting around the big
bend again, 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!

She <SFX: TRUMPETS> her trunk.

*

25 ELINOR 25

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.

3 **EXT. BIKE PATH (NEAR TURTLE POND) - MINUTES LATER** 3

The kids end up at the same place.

27 OLIVE 27

Wha-oh!

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).		*
	ANGLE ON: A turtle in the middle of the path.		
29	OLIVE	29	
	The turtle is back AGAIN?		
30	ARI	30	
	How can that be?		
	The kids get off their vehicles and resume their guarding positions until the turtle makes it across.		
31	ELINOR	31	
	Why does the turtle keep crossing the road?		
32	OLIVE	32	
	(making a joke)		*
	Uhhh, to get to the other side.		*
33	ELINOR	33	
	(giggling)		
	Yeah, but why? And it keeps going the same direction - from here - to there.		*
34	ARI	34	
	Maybe it forgot its lunch at home and had to go back. I do that aaalll the time.		*
35	OLIVE	35	
	Or maybe it just likes crossing roads?		*
	At this moment MARY and LIZ pedal by on a bicycle-built-for-two.		
36	ARI	36	
	Excuse me, turtle crossing.		
	They go around.		
37	OLIVE	37	
	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.		

38	ELINOR	38
	We need MORE observations. Follow that turtle!	

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

4	EXT. POND -- DAY	4
---	-------------------------	---

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.

39	ELINOR	39
	Wait a minute - it's not just ONE turtle.	

40	OLIVE	40	*
	It's one, two little turtles.		

41	ARI	41	*
	And a big turtle too, look.		

	Ari points, ANGLE ON: The big turtle.		*
--	---------------------------------------	--	---

42	ELINOR	42
	So it wasn't the same turtle crossing the road.	

43	OLIVE	43
	It was a different turtle each time.	

44	ARI	44
	I guess they were coming to float in the pond.	

45	OLIVE	45
	Yeah, but what were they doing on the other side of the road in the first place?	

46	ELINOR	46
	Let's go and check it out. We need even MORE observations.	

5	EXT. BIKE PATH - DAY	5
---	-----------------------------	---

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

6	EXT. TURTLE NEST - DAY	6	
	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.		
47	OLIVE More little turtles!	47	
48	ELINOR And broken eggshells. What are they doing here?	48	* *
49	ARI Maybe the turtles had scrambled eggs for breakfast.	49	
50	OLIVE Hmmm. Good idea, but I don't think turtles can cook, Ari.	50	
51	ELINOR Maybe the little turtles came OUT of the eggs?	51	
52	OLIVE Oh yeah, I read about this in my Nature Book. Turtles hatch from eggs, just like baby birds.	52	* * *
53	ARI Ohhhhhh.	53	* *
	ANGLE ON: One of the baby turtles rouses itself and makes its way out of the nest.		
54	ARI (CONT'D) Uh-oh, this little one is on the move.	54	
55	OLIVE It's heading towards the bike path.	55	* *
56	ELINOR Wait a minute... (observing the eggshells and putting it together) That's why the little turtles were crossing. They hatched here on THIS side...	56	* * *
	She points down.		*

57	OLIVE	57	
	But now they want to get to the pond on the other side.		
	She points to the other side.		*
58	ARI	58	
	That makes sense...		*
	(noticing turtle)		
	And there it goes.		
	The baby turtle makes its way to the bike path.		
7	EXT. BIKE PATH -- DAY	7	
	As Elinor and Ari guard this latest little travelling turtle, Olive makes notes in her book.		
59	OLIVE	59	
	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?).		
60	OLIVE (CONT'D)	60	*
	The new bike path goes right through where the turtles go from the nest to the pond.		*
61	ELINOR	61	*
	That's not fair, the turtles were here first.		
62	OLIVE	62	*
	You're right, Elinor.		*
63	ARI	63	
	We should do something.		
	At that moment Ranger Rabbit shows up.		
64	RANGER RABBIT	64	
	Well if it isn't the Animal Town racers - how goes the new bike path?		
65	ELINOR	65	
	Not good Mom.		

66 OLIVE 66
We keep getting stopped.

67 ARI 67
By TURTLES!

68 RANGER RABBIT 68
Turtles?

69 ELINOR 69
Yes, see.

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

ANGLE ON: The turtle nest.

70 RANGER RABBIT 70
Oooh, I do see. So Momma turtle
made her nest in this dry sandy
spot...turtles do that.

71 OLIVE 71
And then she laid EGGS.

72 ARI 72
And when the babies came out of the
eggs, they headed straight for the
pond. *

73 ELINOR 73
Right across the new bike path.

74 RANGER RABBIT 74
Oh, dear.

75 OLIVE 75
See?

Olive shows her drawing to Ranger Rabbit.

76 RANGER RABBIT 76
(impressed)
This is very helpful, Olive.
(to all three)
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. You've
discovered a problem that can be
solved, so let's solve it together.
What do you think we should do? *

The kids all think, then...

77	ARI	77	
	I've got it! Parachutes!!		
	THOUGHT BUBBLE: Show turtles in parachutes landing safely in the pond.		
78	OLIVE	78	
	Uh, okay? But how would we get the turtles up into the sky in the first place?		
79	ARI	79	
	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.		
80	RANGER RABBIT	80	
	I'm not sure that's safe Ari. Even with parachutes.		
	The turtle lands in a tree.		
81	ARI	81	
	I guess you're right.		
	THOUGHT BUBBLE BURSTS:		
82	OLIVE	82	*
	You know there's really only one fair thing to do.		*
83	ELINOR	83	*
	What's that?		
84	OLIVE	84	*
	Like you said, Elinor, the turtles were here first.		*
85	ELINOR	85	*
	Right! And the babies have to make it to the pond safely.		*
	(putting it together)		*
	Soooo, we need to move our bike path.		*
86	OLIVE	86	*
	You mean, like this?		*

ANGLE ON: Olive sketches a detour on her map.

87	ELINOR	87
	Yes, can we do it Mom?	
88	RANGER RABBIT	88
	I think so, let me talk with Mrs. Beaver.	*

QUICK CROSSFADE TO:

8	EXT. BIKE PATH (NEAR TURTLE POND) -- A LITTLE LATER	8
---	--	---

Mrs. Beaver and her crew are ready to get to work.

89	RANGER RABBIT	89
	Well, what do you think? Can we move the path?	

90	MRS. BEAVER	90
	We HAVE to move the path, Ranger Rabbit. For the sake of the turtles.	
	(calling)	
	All right, crew! Let's get to WORK!	

9	EXT. BIKE PATH REROUTING MONTAGE	9
---	---	---

The kids sing as they help Ranger Rabbit, Mrs. Beaver and her crew move the path, clearing the new route (maybe just marking out and filling in a dirt bath with sand and rocks if you don't want them have them removing foliage/trees/bushes) and protecting the turtle crossing with rocks across the old bike path.

*
*
*
*
*

91	ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE	91
	ALL: Take care, take care	
	When you're out in nature	
	Remember to share	
	Take care, take care	
	Think of the animals	
	Already there.	

ELINOR: Out in the forest
 Watch where you go
 OLIVE: There are birds in the trees,
 And frogs down below
 ARI: They all need their homes
 To be happy and safe
 ELINOR: If you pay close attention
 It'll all work out great

(MORE)

ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE (CONT'D)

ALL: Take care, take care
Think of the animals
Already there
Take care, take care
When you're out in nature
Remember to share.

10 **EXT. NEW BIKE PATH - LATER** 10

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).

92	RANGER RABBIT	92	
	Nice job everyone. Now the turtles will be safe because everyone will ride AROUND them.		*
93	MRS. BEAVER	93	
	And we couldn't have done it without you kids.		
94	ELINOR	94	
	No problem Mrs. Beaver.		
95	ARI	95	
	We love to help out. It's what we do.		
96	ELINOR	96	
	Hey, where's Olive?		
97	OLIVE	97	
	(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.

98	ELINOR	98	
	Whoa, great turtle drawing.		
99	OLIVE	99	*
	It's a turtle crossing sign so everyone will know that there are turtles around here.		*
			*

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

100	RANGER RABBIT	100	
	Very nice, Olive. Now everyone will be careful even if they're not on the bike path.		*

101	MRS. BEAVER	101	
	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.

102	OLIVE	102	
	Awww, what a sweetie.		

103	ELINOR	103	
	Take as long as you like, little one.		

104	ARI	104	
	(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.

105	OLIVE	105	
	Yep, that turtle sure does go slow.		

Another beat.

106	ELINOR	106	
	REALLY slow.		

Olive smiles at her friends.

107	OLIVE	107	
	Are you thinking what I'm thinking?		

CU: On Elinor who smiles, she gets it.

108	ELINOR	108	
	Yeah, while the turtle is going slow, we can go...		*

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

109 ELINOR (CONT'D) 109
...FAST!

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

110 ARI 110
(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!

IRIS OUT, THE END