

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 150 To Bee or Not to Bee

By: Michael Foulke

Elinor's Question: Why do bees want to sting me?

Logline: While on a picnic, Elinor tries to help her friend Koa get over his fear of bees.

Curriculum Goals:

LS2. Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs, and that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow: a. Identify body parts of animals and their function

LS8: Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be the same or different: a. Observe and describe similarities and differences across different types of plants and animals

SEP4: Analyzing and interpreting data a. Collect, describe, and record observations in greater detail and in various ways b. Use the 5 senses and simple tools to gather and record 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.

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Koa

LOCATIONS: Forest

PROPS: Magnifying Glass, Picnic Basket, Picnic Blanket, Food

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Second Draft: October 22, 2019

ELINOR, OLIVE, KOA and ARI walk through the forest on a beautiful spring day with the flowers blooming everywhere. Elinor and Ari carry a picnic basket and a picnic blanket as they look on, hopeful.

We then see OLIVE sitting on the ground, testing it out.

3 KOA 3
Whoa, I know picnics and I can tell
you guys are some serious
picnickers. I like it. *

4 ARI 4 *

Well, it is your first picnic with
us, Koa. We want everything has to
be just right. *

Olive walks over by the river, but her feet begin to SFX: SPLOOSH in puddles. *

6 OLIVE 6 *

How about... no, too wet.

Ari finds a nearby spot that is out in the sun. He sits down, lounges, tries different funny poses, then wipes some sweat off of his brow.

7 ARI 7
Nah, too hot. *

8 KOA 8 *

How about that spot?

Koa points O.S. and the kids turn to see a beautiful shady spot in the grass surrounded by flowers.

9	OLIVE	9	
	Pretty flowers. That's a perfect spot for a picnic!		* *
10	ELINOR	10	* *
	Koa, you're really good at finding picnic spots.		*
11	KOA	11	
	(matter-of-fact)		
	Totally.		
12	ARI	12	
	Alright! I'm hungry! Let's set this picnic up!		

Ari unfolds the blanket and whips it through the air, covering the screen as we use the blanket to:

WIPE TO:

2. EXT. FIELD -- DAY

The kids are now enjoying their picnic, which has lots of yummy snacks that the kids are enjoying. Just as Koa takes a big bite from his honey and jam sandwich, Elinor asks:

13	ELINOR	13	
	So what do you think of the picnic, Koa?		

Koa responds, but his mouth is full and Elinor and Olive have no idea what he's saying.

14	KOA	14	
	(unintelligible)		

Suddenly, Ari pops into frame.

15	ARI	15	
	He said he loves it.		
	(off their look, shrugs)		
	I can understand him.		*

Koa continues to speak and Ari acts as his interpreter.

16	KOA	16	
	(unintelligible)		

17	ARI	17	
	And he also loves his sandwich because it tastes...		

Koa then finishes up his bite with a <GULP> and talks.

18 KOA 18
Delicious! *

As Elinor and Olive talk, a few honeybees start to fly around Koa, which makes him very nervous. He waves his arms at the bees, then quickly gets up. *

19 ELINOR 19
That's great, Koa!

20 OLIVE 20
It looks like our picnic is a--

Suddenly, Koa wedges himself right in between Olive and Elinor, who were seated close to one another, squishing them. *

21 OLIVE (CONT'D) 21
Success? You okay, Koa?

22 KOA 22
Yeah, totally. I'm just trying to find a comfy spot on the blanket. *

As Elinor speaks, the honeybees come back and SFX: BUZZ around Koa, who gets nervous again and swings his arms at the bees. *

23 ELINOR 23
Aww, okay. I'll move over. *

Koa once again gets up and moves away quickly, still swinging his arms. Elinor and Olive just look at each other, confused. *

The next few beats is silent, except for the SFX: BUZZ of the bees as the kids follow Koa around the blanket with their eyes as he gets up, moves, sits down, then immediately repeats that action several times as the bees chase him.

All the while, Elinor, Olive and Ari follow his movements, their heads moving side to side.

24 OLIVE 24
Are you sure you're okay?

25 KOA 25
Oh, yeah. I'm just, you know, still trying to get comfy. *

Koa looks around and sees no bees, <SIGHING> in relief.

26 KOA (CONT'D) 26
Ah, that's better.

Suddenly, a bee lands on Koa's arm and he FREAKS OUT, jumping up and swatting at the bee! <SFX: ALARMED WALLA WAAAH>

27 ELINOR 27
Koa! It's okay! It's just a...

28 KOA 28
Bee! Bee! Bee!

Koa runs around the blanket, swatting like crazy at the bees, who then in turn start to SFX: BUZZ around all the kids.

29 ARI 29 *
Yow! Now they're buzzing around me!

30 OLIVE 30
Me too!

31 ARI 31 *
Why are the bees being so... buzzy?

By now, all of the kids have gotten up off the blanket.

32 ELINOR 32
I don't know. Let's just move our blanket to a new, bee-free spot!

33 KOA 33
Good idea!

Koa runs through screen, carrying the picnic basket and food and we follow him out. *

DISSOLVE TO: *

3. EXT. FOREST -- DAY

The kids are once again enjoying their snacks under the shady tree as a relaxed Koa pops another big bite of his sandwich.

34 ARI 34 *
Ahh... This is better. No bees here. *

35 KOA 35 *
Phew! *

36 OLIVE 36 *
I wonder why those bees started to buzz around us so much? *

37 ELINOR 37 *
 Yeah, bees don't usually bother us *
 like that. *

Koa gets very animated at that question, but once again, his mouth is full and his words are <UNINTELLIGIBLE>. Elinor and Olive look to Ari, who snaps into action.

38 ARI 38 *
 Oh. He's saying bees make him *
 nervous. *

39 ELINOR 39 *
 But bees are really good for *
 nature. *

40 KOA 40 *
 But they also sting! *

41 OLIVE 41 *
 That's true. *

As Koa speaks, he hears an SFX: BUZZ and pauses to look around, but there's nothing there.

42 KOA 42 *
 I don't want to get stung! Bee *
 stings... *sting!* *

43 ARI 43
 Oh, that must be where they get
 their name.

44 ELINOR 44 *
 I know my cousin gets really sick *
 if he gets stung by a bee. He has *
 to carry around special medicine. *

45 OLIVE 45 *
 He's probably allergic to them. Are *
 you allergic too, Koa? *

Koa hears the SFX: BUZZ again, but still nothing.

46 KOA 46 *
 Uh... no. I'm not allergic. I just-- *

A bee SFX: BUZZES around Koa and he swings his arms at it. *

47 KOA (CONT'D) 47 *
 I just don't like-- *

Another bee joins the first bee and Koa's swings become more frantic, as does the SFX: BUZZING of the bees. *

48 ARI 48 *

Uh oh! *

Finally, a third bee joins the others and they all SFX: BUZZ *

around Koa, who's had enough! *

49 KOA 49

BEES!!!

As Koa yells and swats his arms, several more bees come and buzz around the other kids, causing them to get up and move. Ari runs through with a sandwich in his hand.

50 ARI 50

Let's take this picnic to go!

The kids grab what they can and run off behind a nearby clearing. Once the bees have dissipated, they look back at their abandoned picnic site.

51 ARI (CONT'D) 51 *

Those bees got all buzzy on us *

again. I wonder what happened? *

52 OLIVE 52

Yeah. We've never had bees do that *

to us. Where did they all come from *

anyway? *

Elinor watches as the bees fly up above their picnic site, *

near the tree branches.

53 ELINOR 53

I'm not sure, but I think the

answer might be in that tree.

C'mon, we need more observations! *

4. EXT. FOREST -- MOMENTS LATER

We are close on the tree at their picnic site as a few bees buzz around. A beat later, Elinor head pokes out from behind a tree, followed by Olive, then Ari.

54 ELINOR 54

Where's Koa?

They all look back to reveal Koa hiding behind a bush quite far away. He waves to the group.

55 KOA 55

(yelling out)

It's all good. I can see from here.

At that moment, a bee SFX: BUZZES right by the kids and they watch it fly up towards the top of the tree. A beat later, another bee flies up, then another.

56 ARI 56
Where are all these bees going?

Ari looks up, only to get SFX: SPLATTED by a big goop of honey, right on his face. A startled Ari licks the goop and smiles.

57 ARI (CONT'D) 57
Honey fell out of the sky! It's
raining goopy sweetness! My dream
has come true! *

Olive and Elinor look up at the top of the tree.

58 ELINOR 58
Honey fell, all right, but not out
of the sky. It fell out of that bee
hive.

59 OLIVE 59
That's why there's so many bees
around. They live here!

The kids all look at the bee hive as Elinor thinks about
their situation. *

60 ELINOR 60
That explains why there were so
many bees in this place, but what
about our first picnic. Hmm... *

Elinor scans over to their first picnic spot. She notices the
flowers and sees some bees landing on them. *

61 ELINOR (CONT'D) 61
Look! Our first picnic spot was
near all those flowers where the
bees are buzzing. *

62 ARI 62
Oh yeah, bees love flowers! They
like to drink that sweet, sweet
nectar that's inside the flowers! *

63 OLIVE 63
Ohhh, that's why the bees were
there, but... why were they buzzing
around us so much today? *

64 ARI 64
 Maybe they drank too much nectar.
 Mom says I go a little too excited *
 if I drink too much juice.

65 OLIVE 65 *
 Or maybe they get really excited *
 about honey and jam sandwiches? *

66 ELINOR 66
 Maybe, let's go take a closer look *
 at the bees! *
 (then, calling out)
 Come on, Koa.

Koa's head peeks out from a bush very far away.

67 KOA 67
 (yelling)
 No, I'm cool right here, thanks *

68 OLIVE 68
 Uh-oh. If we don't figure out
 what's going on with these bees,
 Koa may never come to a picnic with *
 us again. *

Another bee SFX: BUZZES by the kids and they run after it.

69 ELINOR 69
 Then let's get observing! *

5. EXT. FIELD OF FLOWERS - DAY *

ECU on a beautiful flower as a bee lands on it. As we pull *
 back, we see a GIANT EYEBALL watching the bee. As we pull out *
 even further, we see it's Elinor eye, made bigger by her *
 magnifying glass, which she uses to watch the bee. *

As the kids back away, we see several more bees flying around *
 the flowers as well, going to and fro. *

70 ELINOR (O.S.) 70
 (whispers)
 The bee seems much calmer now. *

We then see Elinor and Olive laying down on their stomachs in *
 a field of beautiful flowers, looking at the bee, as they *
 <WHISPER>.

71 OLIVE 71
 It just looks like a normal bee
 doing... bee stuff. *

72 ELINOR 72 *
 Yeah! It's not buzzing all around *
 us any more. That is SO *
 interesting!

73 OLIVE 73 *
 Maybe there's something about this *
 in my nature book. *

Olive takes out her book and finds the section on bees. There *
 is a picture of a bee buzzing around looking nervous. *

74 OLIVE (CONT'D) 74 *
 It says here that honeybees usually *
 only sting animals when they feel *
 scared of it. *

Olive then flips the page and sees a picture of a bee not *
 looking good after it has stung something. *

75 OLIVE (CONT'D) 75 *
 Ohhh... and it says that stinging *
 actually hurts the bees more than *
 it hurts us, so they only do it *
 when they feel they have no other *
 choice. *

Elinor then goes back to observing the bee in her magnifying *
 glass when suddenly, an excited Ari jumps into frame, looming *
 big and tall over Elinor, Olive and the Bee like a giant
 monster. Not expecting this, Elinor and Olive <GASP>, then
 <LAUGH>!

76 ARI 76
 Soo, what did you find?

77 ELINOR 77
 Ari, you scared us!

78 OLIVE 78
 Yeah! From down here you almost
 look like a big, giant monster.

79 ARI 79
 A giant monster? Cool!
 (then, as a monster)
 I am the unstoppable Ari! Rarr!

Ari stomps around like Godzilla as he, Olive and Elinor
 <LAUGH>. Hearing all of the excitement, Koa then runs over.

80 KOA 80
Hey, what are you--
(then, seeing the bee)
Ahh! More bees!!!

A nervous Koa swats at the bee. Elinor has a front row seat as the bee quickly BUZZES around the flower.

We then see from Elinor's magnifying glass POV as the little bee is in the foreground and a seemingly giant Koa is in the background, swatting at the bee, who BUZZES for his life!

As Koa swings, he knocks some petals off the flowers like Godzilla destroying a building. *

At this point, the frantic bee even starts buzzing around Elinor and a lightbulb goes off for her.

81 ELINOR 81
That's it!
(to Koa)
Koa, wait! Don't wave your arms at the bee! *

82 KOA 82
But... I want it to go away.

83 ELINOR 83
And it will, if you stay calm. Just watch.

Koa finally stops and, a beat later, the bee BUZZES away, no harm done.

84 ELINOR (CONT'D) 84 *
See? Everything's fine.

85 OLIVE 85 *
Wow! Elinor, how did you figure that out? *

Elinor stands up triumphantly.

86 ELINOR 86
I just tried to think like a bee.

Suddenly, a thought bubble appears above Elinor, putting a visual to her explanation.

87	ELINOR (CONT'D)	87	
	At our picnic, the bees were just buzzing around like always until Koa started waving his arms at them. After that...		*
88	ARI	88	
	They started to fly at us.		
	The thought bubble continues.		
89	ELINOR	89	
	That's right, Ari. Which is just like what happened right now. That bee on the flower was just fine...		
90	OLIVE	90	
	(getting it) Until Koa started swatting at it. Then it started flying at him.		
	The thought bubble pops as we're back on just the kids.		
91	KOA	91	
	Totally! Because the bees want to sting me!		
92	ELINOR	92	
	Yes, but only because they're afraid of you.		
93	KOA	93	
	Afraid of me? Why? I don't sting! They sting!		
94	ELINOR	94	
	You don't sting, but bees are really tiny and to them, you're like a super giant monster!		
	Getting it, Ari starts to impersonate a monster again, stomping around.		
95	ARI	95	
	Just like me! Rarr! (off Koa's confused look) You had to be there.		*
96	OLIVE	96	
	I think you're right, Elinor. It's like my Nature Book says. Honeybees usually only sting animals when they feel scared of them.		* * * * *

97 ELINOR 97
 And unless you're allergic, the
 sting hurts them more than it hurts
 us! *

98 KOA 98
 Oh, I didn't know bees were scared
 of me... *

Suddenly, Koa is lost in thought, looking off at something in the distance. As we pull back, we see he's staring at a bee. He then approaches the bee on a nearby flower.

We go close as Koa's (comparatively) huge head enters frame next to a tiny bee on a flower. At this point, they're both calm.

99 KOA (CONT'D) 99
 I'm sorry for scaring you, little
 bee bro. I just didn't want to get
 stung, just like you don't want to
 get swatted. I totally get it now.

Suddenly, the bee SFX: BUZZES off the flower... and right onto Koa's nose! The kids all <GASP>, but this time, Koa remains calm.

100 KOA (CONT'D) 100
 Whoa, I got a bee... on my nose...

101 ELINOR 101
 Remember, bees don't want to sting
 you unless you scare them.

102 KOA 102
 (deep breath)
 Right, so I'm just gonna... chill? *

The kids all watch with baited breath as the bees walks around a bit, checking out Koa, then just BUZZES away with no sting. As the bees flies off, Koa exhales in relief.

103 KOA (CONT'D) 103
 Phew!

104 ELINOR 104
 Koa, that was great. You kept calm
 and the bee left you alone.

105 OLIVE 105
 And the most important thing is,
 you didn't get scared.

106	KOA	106	
	No, I was super scared, but I stayed chill because I didn't want to scare the bee!		
107	ARI	107	
	Whoa. Now that's what I call BEE- ing cool. Get it? Bee-ing?		*
			*
	The kids <GIGGLE> as music rises and they begin to sing.		*
108	ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI	108	
	<i>ELINOR: Sometimes bees can give you a sting, And that is not a very fun thing But just think like a bee They feel so tiny next to you and me!</i>		*
			*
	<i>OLIVE: Bees can help pollinate flowers.</i>		*
			*
	<i>ARI: And make honey, which takes hours and hours!</i>		*
			*
	<i>ELINOR Sometimes bees can give you a sting And that is not a very fun thing But just think like a bee They feel so tiny next to you and me!</i>		*
			*
	<i>ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI: But... We can live together If we remember just one thing. Think about how others must feel And you might not get a sting!</i>		*
			*

As the music fades and the song ends, we:

CUT TO:

6. EXT. FOREST -- DAY *

The kids are once again on their picnic blanket, finishing up
their lunch.

109	ELINOR	109	
	Now this is what I call a picnic!		*

110 KOA 110
Yeah, thanks everybody. Not only
for the tasty honey and jam
sandwich, but also for helping me
not be scared of...

Suddenly, two bees fly in.

111 ARI 111
Bees!

The kids all watch, worried, as both bees land right on Koa's
honey and jam sandwich and inspect it. However, rather than
be scared, Koa watches them calmly.

112 OLIVE 112
You okay, Koa?

113 KOA 113
Totally. These bees made this yummy
honey, so they should get to have
some too.

We then super close on the bees, with Koa's giant head behind
them, once again emphasizing their difference in size.

114 KOA (CONT'D) 114
Eat up, little bee bros! This is a
safe place for munching. Some for
you...

After a beat, the bees fly away and Koa eats the rest of his
sandwich in one bite, then says something <UNINTELLIGIBLE>.

115 KOA (CONT'D) 115
(unintelligible)

116 ARI 116
He said, 'and some for me.'

117 ELINOR 117
I think we got that one, Ari!

*

The kids <LAUGH> as they continue to enjoy their picnic, and
we:

FADE OUT.