

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW 157 Rocky The Rock

By Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: Are rocks alive?

Logline: When Ari makes friends with Rocky the Rock, he starts to wonder if the rock is alive.

Curriculum Goals: • LS5. Begin to understand that animals (including humans) 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. Differentiate between and begin to articulate the difference between animate and inanimate objects (e.g., animate objects can initiate their own movement and have different insides than inanimate objects) (Elinor and her friend differentiate between animate objects (living things - butterfly, flower, Ari and inanimate objects (non-living things - Rocky the rock)).

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 (Elinor and her friends wonder whether Rocky the rock is alive, and decide to investigate)

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

b. Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail
c. Demonstrate an ability to make and test predictions based on background knowledge and experiences ?
(Elinor and her friends compare Rocky the rock with something they know is alive (Ari) and predict what the rock will or won't do).

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data

a. Collect, describe, and record observations in greater detail and in various ways
d. Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem, and why it might have happened (Elinor and her friends collect, record and describe observations about living things and the rock, trying to decide if the rock is alive too).

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

(Elinor and her friends discuss their evidence and eventually decide that rocks don't eat, move or grow because they are not alive.)

SEP7. Engaging in argument from evidence

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

b. Support thinking and argue ideas with evidence

(Elinor and her friends discuss their observations with their classmates)

SEP8. Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information

a. Obtain information through discussing prior knowledge and observations with experts including teachers or knowledgeable adults

c. Describe observable phenomena using adjectives and labels

f. Share findings and explanations (correct or incorrect) through a variety of methods (Elinor and her friends obtain information about living vs non-living things through prior knowledge, observations and discussions with Mz. Mole then they share their explanations with their classmates).

FIRST DRAFT: December 04, 2019

It's morning recess and Ari is entertaining his friends (ELINOR, OLIVE, KOA, TITO, CAMILLA) with some of his favourite knock-knock jokes.

2 ELINOR 2
Who's there?

4 ELINOR 4
Owls say who?

<SFX: CRAZY LAUGHTER!> The kids think this is hilarious, especially Elinor.

8 OLIVE 8
Who's there?

10	Says who?	OLIVE	10
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More <SFX: RAUCOUS LAUGHTER>.

12 OLIVE 12

Wow, Ari, your jokes are so funny!

(she laughs so loud she
trumpets her trunk)

You even made a rock smile.

13 ARI 13
A rock? Really?

14 OLIVE 14
YES! Look...

Olive points, Ari looks and sees ANGLE ON: a little rock with a striation that looks like a smile.

15 ARI 15
Wow!
 (Ari picks up the rock and
 looks it over)
This is a really nice rock, it's so
smooth and just the right size and
it has a smile...
 (He holds the rock up)
Wanna hear another joke, rock?
 (He makes the rock nod)
You do? Okay here goes.
Knock! Knock!
 (rock voice)
Who's there?
 (Ari voice)
Nose.
 (rock voice)
Nose who?
 (Ari voice)
I nose plenty more knock-knock
jokes!
 (raucous rock laughter)
Ahahahahahahah-heheh...

The other kids <SFX: LAUGH> too.

16 ARI (CONT'D) 16
Rock, we are going to be friends
and I will name you...Rocky.

Just then Mz. Mole appears and rings her school bell. <SFX:
DING, DING, DING!!> The kids run towards the school.

2. INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

As the kids file in Ari introduces Rocky to Mz. Mole.

17 ARI 17
Rocky, this is our teacher, Mz.
Mole. She's super-nice. Mz. Mole
meet my new friend Rocky.

18 MZ. MOLE 18
 (smiling along with the
 joke)
 Pleased to meet you, Rocky. Hope
 you have a good time in our class.

19 ARI 19
 Oh, don't worry, Mz. Mole. If
 there's one thing Rocky knows how
 to do, it's have a good time.

And so, they do!

3. ARI/ROCKY FUN MUSICAL MONTAGE

Ari has all kinds of fun playing with Rocky in class.

- He builds a block-tower castle and puts Rocky on top!
- He walks Rocky around the class plants, like he's a jungle explorer.
- He reads Rocky a book - about Rocks!
- He lies on his back on the circle carpet and zooms Rocky through the air like a super-hero.

END MONTAGE

4. INT. CLASSROOM (TABLE) -- DAY

Ari is sitting at a table with his lunch-box and Rocky.

20 ARI 20
 And now, my favourite time of all -
 SNACK TIME. Let's see what Dad
 packed in my lunch-box today.
 (to Rocky)
 Dad always takes such good care of
 me.
 (He looks in his lunch-
 box.)
 Mmmmm. Carrot sticks. My
 FAVOURITE!
 (He starts to munch a
 carrot, then glances at
 Rocky.)
 Are you hungry too, Rocky? I guess
 you didn't bring a lunch box.
 (He digs through his lunch
 box)
 Don't worry, buddy.
 (MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

Dad always packs extra snacks. You
can have some of mine.

He holds a carrot in front of Rocky's little smile, but
nothing happens. At that moment Elinor and Olive happen by
and notice.

21 OLIVE 21
Whatcha doing, Ari?

22 ARI 22
Just taking care of Rocky. Like my
Dad takes care of me.

23 ELINOR 23
Aww, that's so nice.

Olive and Elinor join Ari at the table with their snacks.

24 ARI 24
He doesn't seem very hungry though.

25 OLIVE 25
Maybe he had something before he
came. Like Stone Soup?

THOUGHT BUBBLE reveals Rocky sitting in front of a steaming
bowl of soup.

26 ARI (V.O.) 26
Or maybe he's saving his appetite
for a mud pie his mom made.

Mom appears in the thought bubble, and the bowl morphs into a
pie.

27 ELINOR (V.O.) 27
Or maybe it's because Rocky is a
rock.

The THOUGHT BUBBLE bursts.

28 ELINOR 28
And rocks don't eat because they're
not alive.

29 OLIVE 29
They aren't? Hmm. I've never
thought about that before.

30 ARI 30
But rocks are part of nature, and
lots of things in nature ARE alive.
So maybe rocks are too?

ANGLE ON: Rocky.

Ari picks up one of Rocky's carrot sticks and eats it <SFX: MUNCH, MUNCH>

Ari eats another carrot stick. <SFX: MUNCH, MUNCH>.

CROSSFADE TO:

They continue their observations.

Ari takes this as a bit of a challenge. (NOTE: I thought it might be fun for the kids if he does a couple of Fortnite dances - if possible as animation allows).

41	ARI	41
	How about this?	

42 ARI (CONT'D) 42

Or THIS!

43 ARI (CONT'D) 43

Or THIS!

44 OLIVE 44
(laughing)
That's a lot of this-es.

45 ELINOR 45
But it's all moving. That's one
thing Ari does for sure. Move, a
LOT!

OLIVE

And he's not the only one. Look!

47 ELINOR 47
Wooooow! Alive things really do
move!

49 ELINOR 49
Doesn't look like it.

50 OLIVE 50
That's TWO things Rocky doesn't do -
eat and move.

51		ARI	51
		Wait a sec...watch this!	
	Ari tosses the rock up into the air.		
52		OLIVE	52
		That doesn't count, Ari. Rocky didn't move.	
53		ELINOR	53
		You moved Rocky.	
	Ari does his famous spin and catch.		
54		ARI	54
		I caught Rocky too! Yay ME!	
55		ELINOR	55
		Ha! That's ANOTHER thing Ari does and I do it too - and so do you, Olive.	
56		OLIVE	56
		What's that?	
57		ELINOR	57
		You're doing it right now.	
58		OLIVE	58
		Oh, talking! Right! Rocky doesn't talk, so that's one more thing that's different.	
59		ARI	59
		Yeah but trees don't talk. And I'm pretty sure they're alive.	
60		OLIVE	60
		Neither do butterflies. And they are DEFINITELY alive.	
	The kids observe a butterfly fluttering by.		
61		ELINOR	61
		Hmmm, good point.	
62		OLIVE	62
		But wait a minute, trees don't move either.	
63		ELINOR	63
		Yes they do! When they GROW.	

76 MZ. MOLE 76
(laughing)
A looong time ago, Ari. But why
all the questions about growing?

77 ELINOR 77
We're trying to decide if Rocky is
alive or not.

Ari holds up his rock.

78 ARI 78
It's trickier than we thought.

79 MZ. MOLE 79
I'll bet. So how have you decided
to answer your question?

80 OLIVE 80
We thought we'd figure out what
alive things do, like eat and move
and grow.

81 ELINOR 81
And then see if Rocky does them
too.

82 MZ. MOLE 82
This is a fascinating process,
young scientists. Would you like
to present your findings to the
class?

<SFX: YES! AWESOME! LET'S GO WALLA>.

6. INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

Elinor, Olive and Ari are standing in front of the class.

83 ELINOR 83
Is Rocky the Rock alive?

Ari holds Rocky up.

84 OLIVE 84
That's the question we've been
trying to answer.

85 ARI 85
(to Rocky)
Don't worry Rocky, alive or not,
you are ALWAYS awesome.
(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)
(to the class)
Am I right?

<SFX: RIGHT! FOR SURE WALLA>

86 OLIVE 86
So what we did was compare Rocky to
things we KNEW were alive.

87 OLIVE (CONT'D) 87
Like butterflies!

88 ELINOR 88
And trees!

89 ARI 89
And ME!

Ari does a flip (or a Fortnite dance?).

90 ELINOR 90
(giggling)
Ari is very alive.

91 OLIVE 91
And this is what we found. Rocky
can't do a lot of things that
living things can do. Like eat.

92 ARI 92
I can do that.

93 ELINOR 93
And MOVE...like a butterfly does.

94 ARI 94
And me too!

Ari moonwalks.

95 OLIVE 95
Or grow, like a tree.

96 ELINOR 96
Or like us kids.

97 ARI 97
Or like Mz. Mole, back when she was
a little kid.

The kids buzz with shock <SFX: WHUUU??>

98 ARI (CONT'D) 98
I know, right?

99 MZ. MOLE 99
Nice observations, you three, I
like the way you think. So what is
your final decision. Is Rocky the
Rock alive?

100 ELINOR 100
Well, considering our observations.

101 OLIVE 101
That Rocky can't eat, move or
grow...

102 ELINOR 102
And the living things we observed
can do all these things.

Ari peeks out from behind Elinor and points to himself.

103 OLIVE 103
We would have to say...

She glances at Elinor.

104 ELINOR 104
...that Rocky ISN'T alive.

105 OLIVE 105
But - Rocky is AWESOME!

The kids <SFX: CHEER> and when it dies down we have a little
tender moment between Ari and Rocky.

106 ARI 106
(to Rocky)
Don't worry Rocky, we'll still take
care of you.

CU: Ari wipes away a little smudge of dirt revealing Rocky's
smile.

WIDEN: Olive puts her arm around Ari's shoulder.

107 OLIVE 107
Of course we will, Ari. Rocky is
part of nature.

108 ELINOR 108
And ALL of nature needs our care.

109 MZ. MOLE 109
Very nicely put.

SONG MONTAGE

Elinor, Olive and Ari sing the song as we see a montage of the three of them playing Rocky outside in nature, along with birds, bees, butterflies and all kinds of living things.

110 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI 110
ARI - My friend Rocky,
Happens to be a rock,
ELINOR: Rocky doesn't eat,
Rocky doesn't walk,
OLIVE: But Ari's pal Rocky
Is still a lot of fun,
ARI: So I'll take care of Rocky,
Until the day is done.

ALL - All of nature needs our care,
The fish in the ocean,
The birds in the air,
The plants and the mountains,
The rivers and the sea,
All of nature is our home,
A special place for you and me

ARI - My friend Rocky,
Might be a rock,
ELINOR: But rocks are part of
nature,
Even if they don't talk,
OLIVE: If we pay close attention,
To all our nature friends,
ALL: Then we'll have a wonderful
world,
For us all to live in! With ROCKY!

BACK IN THE CLASS: Ari holds Rocky aloft triumphantly.

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111                                MZ. MOLE                                111
                                Now let's all go outside and make
                                our OWN nature friends - with
                                rocks, or plants or puddles or
                                anything!  Ari and Rocky, lead the
                                way!!

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Ari runs out the door holding Rocky aloft.

112	ARI	112
	Follow me - and ROCKY!!	

Ari, Olive and Elinor and their friends are paying close attention to all kinds of interesting things in Nature. Elinor spots a butterfly.

Elinor bounces after the butterfly, as Olive is in mid-conversation with a tree.

Olive hugs the tree.

Ari looks closely at Rocky, CU: he's upside down.

Ari turns him right side up.

118 ARI (CONT'D) 118
 (Rocky's voice)
Ahhh, that's better, thanks Ari.
AHAHAHHAAAAHA - that joke never
gets old.

CU: On Rocky's cute smiling face.

IRIS OUT, THE END