

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

SECOND DRAFT: January 9, 2020

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

5 ARI 5
Yes, they do say WHOOOO.

11 ARI 11
Says me, that's who!

13 ARI 13
A rock? Really?

14	OLIVE	14	
	YES! Look...		
	Olive points, Ari looks and sees ANGLE ON: a little rock (it fits in Ari's hand) 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, talking out the side of his mouth, funny 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 good friends. I will name you... Rocky.		* *
	<SFX: DING, DING, DING!!> The kids run towards the school. Mz. Mole opens the door and they run inside.		* *
17	ARI (CONT'D)	17	
	That's the school bell! C'mon Rocky, lets go inside!		* * *
	Ari and Rocky follow the rest of the kids		*

2. INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

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

20 ARI 20

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

21

ARI

21

And now, my favourite time of all -
SNACK TIME. Let's see what Dad
packed in my lunch-box today.
(to Rocky)
Mom and Dad always take 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.)
(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

Are you hungry too, Rocky? Maybe
you don't have a Mom and Dad to
pack you a lunch box, like I do.
(he digs in his lunch box)
Don't worry, buddy. I'll take care
of you. My folks always pack 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.

*

22 OLIVE 22
Whatcha doing, Ari?

23 ARI 23
Just taking care of Rocky. Like my
Mom and Dad take care of me. *

24 ELINOR 24
Aww, that's so nice.

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

25 ARI 25
I'm trying to feed him, but he
doesn't seem very hungry. *

26 OLIVE 26
Maybe he doesn't like carrots. *

27 ARI 27
(getting nervous)
I guess not, but if I'm going to
take good care of Rocky, I gotta
feed him. What DOES a rock like to
eat? *

28 OLIVE 28
I dunno, maybe mud pies? *

29 ELINOR 29
Or maybe nothing?
(thoughtfully)
Maybe rocks don't eat. Are they
even alive? *

30 OLIVE 30
Good question. I've never thought
about that before. *

31 ARI 31
But rocks are part of nature, and
lots of things in nature ARE alive.
So maybe rocks are too?

32 OLIVE 32 *
Dun, dun, dunnnn, sounds like a
mystery. Is Rocky the rock alive - *
or not? *

33 ELINOR 33
Let's figure it out! We can start *
by comparing Rocky to things we *
know ARE alive.

34 OLIVE 34
How about...ARI!

35 ARI 35
Good choice. I am definitely ALIVE!

Ari eats a carrot stick. <SFX: MUNCH, MUNCH>. *

36 ELINOR 36
Okay first thing, Ari is REALLY
good at eating, Rocky not so much.

CROSSFADE TO:

5. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

They continue their observations.

37 OLIVE 37
Okay what else does Ari do?

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).

He puts Rocky down on a nearby boulder.

38 ARI 38
How about this?

He does The Floss - or whatever you choose.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8c5YY9DcoiE>

39 ARI (CONT'D) 39
Or THIS!

He does The Robot.

40	ARI (CONT'D)	40	
	Or THIS!		
	He flies up to a tree and hangs upside down.		
41	OLIVE	41	
	(laughing)		
	That's a lot of this-es, but they		*
	are all moving your body.		*
	Elinor is excited, she starts hopping.		
42	ELINOR	42	
	That's one thing Ari does for sure.		*
	Move, a LOT!		
	Olive looks at Elinor with amusement as she bounces around.		
43	OLIVE	43	
	And he's not the only one. Look!		
	WIDE TO REVEAL The schoolyard. Kids are playing, birds,		
	butterflies, bees, dragonflies and frogs are fluttering,		*
	buzzing, and hopping - as much movement as possible. During		*
	this Ari flutters to the ground.		
44	ELINOR	44	
	Wooooow! Alive things really do		
	move!		
45	OLIVE	45	
	And Rocky?		
	ANGLE ON: The rock.		
46	ELINOR	46	
	Doesn't look like it.		
47	OLIVE	47	
	That's TWO things Rocky doesn't do -		
	eat and move.		
48	ARI	48	
	Wait a sec...watch this!		
	Ari tosses the rock up into the air.		
49	OLIVE	49	
	That doesn't count, Ari. Rocky		
	didn't move by himself.		*
50	ELINOR	50	
	Yeah! You moved Rocky.		*

Ari does his famous spin and catch.

51	ARI	51	
	I caught Rocky too! Yay ME!		
52	ELINOR	52	
	Ha! That's ANOTHER thing Ari does and I do it too - and so do you, Olive.		
53	OLIVE	53	
	What's that?		
54	ELINOR	54	*
	You just did it right now.		
55	OLIVE	55	
	Oh, talking! Right! Rocky doesn't talk, so that's one more thing we do that Rocky doesn't.		* *
56	ARI	56	*
	(thinking this through) Yeah...but...trees don't talk. And I'm pretty sure they're alive.		*
57	OLIVE	57	
	Neither do butterflies. And they are DEFINITELY alive.		
The kids observe a butterfly fluttering by.			
58	ELINOR	58	*
	Hmmm, that's true.		
59	OLIVE	59	
	But wait a minute, trees don't move either.		
60	ELINOR	60	*
	They do when they grow.		
61	ARI	61	*
	Yeah, that's right. But do rocks grow?		
62	ELINOR	62	*
	I dunno. It's hard to tell. I've never seen a rock grow.		
63	ARI	63	*
	I've never seen a tree grow either, I just know they do..very sloooooowly.		*

At this moment Mz. Mole walks by.

64 OLIVE 64
I've never noticed Mz. Mole growing
either. And she is DEFINITELY
alive.

65 ELINOR 65
Let's ask her.

The kids run over to Mz. Mole.

66 ELINOR (CONT'D) 66
Mz. Mole, do you grow?

67 MZ. MOLE 67
Well, only around the tummy when
I've had a cheesy bagel at Mr.
Raccoon's bakery. *

68 OLIVE 68
No, we mean do you grow taller,
like a tree does? *

69 ARI 69
Or like me! I'm growing all the
time, that's what my Mom says. *

70 MZ. MOLE 70
Yes, you kids are all growing like
weeds, Ari. But I'm not growing
anymore. Grown-ups don't grow.

71 ELINOR 71
Because you're all grown UP!

72 MZ. MOLE 72
That's right, Elinor. But I used
to grow, when I was a little kid
like you.

CU: Ari is gobsmacked.

73 ARI 73
You...were...a little KID!!????

74 MZ. MOLE 74
(laughing)
A looong time ago, Ari. But why
all the questions about growing?

75 ELINOR 75
We're trying to decide if Rocky is
alive or not.

Ari holds up his rock.

76	ARI	76	
	So we can take care of him properly.		* *
77	OLIVE	77	*
	It's trickier than we thought.		*
78	MZ. MOLE	78	
	I'll bet. How are you figuring it out?		* *
79	OLIVE	79	
	We thought about what things that are alive do, like eat and move and grow.		* *
80	ELINOR	80	
	And then we see if Rocky does them too.		*
81	MZ. MOLE	81	
	This is a fascinating process, young scientists. Do you want to share at show and tell?		* *

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

6. INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

	Mz. Mole, Elinor, Olive and Ari are standing in front of the class. Ari holds Rocky up.		* *
82	MZ. MOLE	82	*
	Ari's friend Rocky is a rock. Who thinks a rock is alive?		* *
	Half the kids put up their hands <SFX: YEP, SURE WALLA>.		*
83	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	83	*
	Who here thinks a rock ISN'T alive?		* *
	The first half puts their hands down and the other half of the kids put up their hands <SFX: NOPE, DON'T THINK SO WALLA>		* *
84	ARI	84	*
	(to Rocky) Don't worry Rocky, alive or not, you are ALWAYS awesome. (to the class) Am I right?		

<SFX: RIGHT! FOR SURE WALLA>

85	MZ. MOLE	85	*
	Okay, let's try and figure this		*
	out. Kids, take it away.		*
	Olive steps forward.		*
86	OLIVE	86	*
	To figure out if a rock is alive we		*
	decided to compare Rocky to things		*
	we KNOW are alive...like		*
	butterflies and trees.		
87	ELINOR	87	*
	And ARI!		*
	(Ari does a flip (or a		*
	Fortnite dance?)		*
	(giggling)		*
	Ari is very alive.		
88	OLIVE	88	
	And this is what we found. Rocky		
	can't do a lot of things that		
	living things can do. Like eat.		
89	ARI	89	*
	I can do that!		
	<SFX: AGREEMENT, YOU SURE CAN WALLA FROM THE CLASS>		*
90	ELINOR	90	
	And MOVE...like a butterfly does.		
91	ARI	91	
	And me too!		
	Ari moonwalks.		
92	OLIVE	92	*
	And we also wondered if a rock		*
	grows..like a tree.		
93	ELINOR	93	
	Or like us kids.		
94	ARI	94	*
	Or like Mz. Mole..		*
	(leans in to whisper)		*
	Back when she was a little kid too.		
	The kids buzz with shock <SFX: WHUUU??>		*

95 ARI (CONT'D) 95 *
 (conspiratorially) *
 I knooooow. *

Tito takes a small pebble from his pocket and hold it up. *

96 TITO 96 *
 I've had my lucky rock since I was *
 little - and it hasn't grown at *
 all. *

97 OLIVE 97 *
 But you've grown, right Tito? *

98 TITO 98 *
 (proudly, even though he's *
 small) *
 I sure have! *

99 ELINOR 99 *
 So it looks like rocks don't *
 grow...or eat or move. *

100 OLIVE 100 *
 Like living things do. *

101 MZ. MOLE 101
 Nice observations, you three, I *
 like the way you think. So what *
 does the class think now. Is Rocky *
 the Rock alive? *

No one puts up their hands. <SFX: NO, DON'T THINK SO WALLA> *

102 ELINOR 102 *
 Okay, so I guess we all think that *
 Rocky ISN'T alive. *

103 OLIVE 103 *
 But - Rocky is...AWESOME! *

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

104 ARI 104 *
 (relieved, to Rocky) *
 Whew! I guess that means I don't *
 have to figure out what to feed *
 you, Rocky. But don't worry friend, *
 I'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.

105	OLIVE	105
	Of course we will, Ari. Rocky is part of nature.	
106	ELINOR	106
	And ALL of nature needs our care.	
107	MZ. MOLE	107
	Very nicely put.	

SONG MONTAGE

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

108	ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI	108
	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.

109 MZ. MOLE 109
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!!

Ari runs out the door holding Rocky aloft.

110 ARI 110
Follow me - and ROCKY!!

7. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

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

111 ELINOR 111
Hi, little butterfly, wanna be
nature friends? Whoo-hoo, you sure
can flutter.

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

112 OLIVE 112
Hey tree, now that we're friends,
mind if I give you a hug?

Olive hugs the tree.

113 OLIVE (CONT'D) 113
Ahhhh, that feels so good.

114 ARI 114 *

Well, I'm sticking with Rocky. He
never gets tired of my jokes. Knock-
knock, Rocky.
(Rocky's voice)
Who's there?
(Ari voice)
Ari.
(Rocky voice)
Ari who?
(Ari voice)
Ari-n't you glad I didn't say knock-
knock again?
(a beat then)
Rocky? Don't you think that's
funny?

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

Ari turns him right side up.

THE END