

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).

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1. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

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

1	ARI	1	
	Knock! Knock!		
2	ELINOR	2	
	Who's there?		
3	ARI	3	
	Owls say.		
4	ELINOR	4	
	Owls say who?		
5	ARI	5	
	Yes, they do say WHOOOO.		
 <SFX: CRAZY LAUGHTER!> The kids think this is hilarious, especially Elinor.			
6	ELINOR	6	
	(laughing)		*
	It's funny because it's true - Owls		
	DO say (owl voice) whoooooooo!		*
7	ARI	7	
	I've got another one. Knock! Knock!		
8	OLIVE	8	
	Who's there?		
9	ARI	9	
	Says.		
10	OLIVE	10	
	Says who?		
11	ARI	11	
	Says me, that's who!		
 More <SFX: RAUCOUS LAUGHTER>.			
12	OLIVE	12	
	(she laughs so loud she		*
	trumpets her trunk)		*
	Wow, Ari, your jokes are so funny!		
	You even made a rock smile.		*
13	ARI	13	
	A rock smile? 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. Olive traces the smile with her trunk so it's clear.

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.

18 ARI 18

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

19 MZ. MOLE 19
(smiling along with the
joke)
Well, hello! Pleased to meet you, *
Rocky. Hope you have a good time in
our class.

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.

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.

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. Pickles. My FAVOURITE! *

(He starts to munch a
pickle, 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 Dad always packs extra
snacks. You can have some of mine.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

He holds a pickle 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 pickles. *

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. *

CROSSFADE TO:

They continue their observations.

38

OLIVE

38

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.

39	ARI	39	
	How about this?		
	He does The Floss - or whatever you choose. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8c5YY9DcoiE		
40	ARI (CONT'D)	40	
	Or THIS!		
	He does The Robot.		
41	ARI (CONT'D)	41	
	Or THIS!		
	He flies up to a tree and hangs upside down.		
42	OLIVE	42	
	(laughing)		
	Nice moves Ari.		*
	Elinor is excited, she starts hopping.		
43	ELINOR	43	
	That's one thing Ari does for sure.		*
	Move, a LOT!		
	Olive looks at Elinor with amusement as she bounces around.		*
44	OLIVE	44	
	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.		* *
45	ELINOR	45	
	Wooooow! Alive things really do move! Look at the butterfly flutter.		* *
46	OLIVE	46	*
	And Rocky?		
	ANGLE ON: The rock.		
47	ELINOR	47	
	Doesn't look like it.		
48	OLIVE	48	
	That's TWO things Ari does that Rocky doesn't do - eat and move.		*

Olive draws a picture of the butterfly fluttering to signify "moving" under the pickle, then makes a row and puts a check under Ari's picture and an X under Rocky's.

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49                                ARI                                49
                                Wait a sec...watch this!

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Ari tosses the rock up into the air.

50 OLIVE 50
That doesn't count, Ari. Rocky
didn't move by himself. *

51 ELINOR 51
Yeah! You moved Rocky. *

Ari does his famous spin and catch.

ARI
I caught Rocky too! Yay ME!

53 ELINOR 53
Ha! That's ANOTHER thing Ari does
and I do it too - and so do you,
Olive.

54 OLIVE 54
What's that?

55 ELINOR 55
You just did it right now. *

56 OLIVE 56

Oh, talking! Right! Rocky doesn't
talk, so that's one more thing we
do that Rocky doesn't.

*
*

57 ARI 57
 (thinking this through) *
Yeah...but...trees don't talk. And *
I'm pretty sure they're alive.

58 OLIVE 58
Neither do butterflies. And they
are DEFINITELY alive.

The kids observe a butterfly fluttering by.

59 ELINOR 59
Hmmm, that's true. *

60 OLIVE 60
But wait a minute, trees don't move
either.

61	ELINOR	61	
	They do when they grow.		*
62	ARI	62	
	Yeah, that's right. But do rocks grow?		*
63	ELINOR	63	
	I dunno. It's hard to tell. I've never seen a rock grow.		*
64	ARI	64	*
	I've never seen a tree grow either, I just know they do..very sloooooowly.		*
At this moment Mz. Mole walks by.			
65	OLIVE	65	
	I've never noticed Mz. Mole growing either. And she is DEFINITELY alive.		
66	ELINOR	66	
	Let's ask her.		
The kids run over to Mz. Mole.			
67	ELINOR (CONT'D)	67	
	Mz. Mole, do you grow?		
68	MZ. MOLE	68	
	Well, only around the tummy when I've had a cheesy bagel at Mr. Raccoon's bakery.		*
69	OLIVE	69	
	No, we mean do you grow taller, like a tree does?		*
70	ARI	70	
	Or like me! I'm growing all the time, that's what my Mom says.		*
71	MZ. MOLE	71	
	Yes, you kids are all growing fast, Ari. But I'm not growing anymore. Grown-ups don't grow.		*
72	ELINOR	72	
	Because you're all grown UP!		

73	MZ. MOLE	73	
	That's right, Elinor. But I used to grow, when I was a little kid like you.		
	CU: Ari is gobsmacked.		
74	ARI	74	
	You...were...a little KID!!????		
75	MZ. MOLE	75	
	(laughing) A looong time ago, Ari. But why all the questions about growing?		
76	ELINOR	76	
	We're trying to decide if Rocky is alive or not.		
	Ari holds up his rock.		
77	ARI	77	
	So we can take care of him properly.		*
			*
78	OLIVE	78	*
	It's trickier than we thought.		*
79	MZ. MOLE	79	
	I'll bet. How are you figuring it out?		*
			*
80	OLIVE	80	
	We thought about what things that are alive do, like eat and move and grow.		*
			*
	ANGLE ON: She shows Mz. Mole her chart.		*
81	ELINOR	81	
	And then we see if Rocky does them too.		*
82	MZ. MOLE	82	
	This is a fascinating process, young scientists. Do you want to include MORE scientists?		*
			*
	<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. *

83 MZ. MOLE 83 *

Ari's friend Rocky is a rock and *

he, Olive and Elinor are trying to *

figure out if a rock is alive or *

not. Any ideas? *

84 TITO 84 *

Rocky does have a really nice *

smile. *

85 SILAS 85 *

And Rocky's a lot of fun to play *

with. *

<SFX: KIDS AGREE SURE IS WALLA> *

86 MZ. MOLE 86 *

Well, both those things are true. *

So, everyone who thinks a rock is *

alive, stand on this side. *

Mz. Mole points. About half the kids stand to one side. <SFX: YEP, SURE WALLA> but we see a couple of kids are indecisive, *

not certain if should they stand on that side or not *

87 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 87 *

And those who think a rock ISN'T *

alive stand on THIS side. *

The other half of the kids stand on the other aide, again *

with a couple of stragglers <SFX: NOPE, DON'T THINK SO WALLA> *

88 ARI 88 *

(to Rocky)

Don't worry Rocky, alive or not,

you are ALWAYS awesome.

(to the class)

Am I right?

<SFX: RIGHT! FOR SURE WALLA>

89 MZ. MOLE 89 *

Okay, let's try and figure this *

out. Olive tell us all about your *

observations. *

Olive steps forward with her chart. *

90	OLIVE	90	
	To figure out if a rock is alive we		*
	decided to compare Rocky to things		*
	we KNOW are alive...like		*
	butterflies and trees.		*
91	ELINOR	91	*
	And ARI!		*
	(Ari does a flip (or a		*
	Fortnite dance?)		*
	(giggling)		*
	Ari is very alive.		
92	OLIVE	92	
	And this is what we found. Rocky		
	can't do a lot of things that		
	living things can do. Like eat.		
	Olive points to her picture of the pickle, the check under		*
	Ari and the X under Rocky.		*
93	ARI	93	
	I can do that!		*
	<SFX: AGREEMENT, YOU SURE CAN WALLA FROM THE CLASS>		*
94	ELINOR	94	
	And MOVE...like a butterfly does.		
	She points to the picture of the butterfly, then the check		*
	under Ari and the X under Rocky.		*
95	ARI	95	
	And me too!		
	Ari moonwalks.		
96	OLIVE	96	
	And we also wondered if a rock		*
	grows..like a tree.		*
	Olive draws a picture of a tree under the butterfly image,		*
	and makes another row.		*
97	ELINOR	97	
	Or like us kids.		
98	ARI	98	
	Or like Mz. Mole..		*
	(leans in to whisper)		*
	Back when she was a little kid too.		*
	The kids buzz with shock <SFX: WHUUU??>		*

99	ARI (CONT'D) (conspiratorially) I knooooow.	99	* * *
	Tito takes a small pebble from his pocket and hold it up.		*
100	TITO I've had my lucky rock since I was little - and it hasn't grown at all.	100	* * * *
101	OLIVE But you've grown, right Tito?	101	* *
102	TITO (proudly, even though he's small) I sure have!	102	* * * *
103	ELINOR So it looks like rocks don't grow...or eat or move.	103	* * *
	Olive puts a check under the Ari image and an X under the Rocky image.		* *
104	OLIVE Like living things do.	104	* *
105	MZ. MOLE Nice observations, you three, I like the way you think. So what does the class think now. Is Rocky the Rock alive?	105	* *
	Everyone goes and stands on the "No" side. <SFX: NO, DON'T THINK SO WALLA>		* *
106	ELINOR Okay, so I guess we all think that Rocky ISN'T alive.	106	* *
107	OLIVE But - Rocky is...AWESOME!	107	* *
	The kids <SFX: CHEER> and when it dies down we have a little tender moment between Ari and Rocky.		
108	ARI (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.	108	* * * * * *

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

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111                      MZ. MOLE                      111
    Very nicely put.

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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.

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.

113 MZ. MOLE 113
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.

114 ARI 114
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.

115 ELINOR 115
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.

116 OLIVE 116
Hey tree, now that we're friends,
mind if I give you a hug?

Olive hugs the tree.

117 OLIVE (CONT'D) 117
Ahhhh, that feels so good.

118 ARI 118 *

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