

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 161 Nature Walk

By: Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: How can we keep our signs from falling over?

Logline: The kids' Nature Walk signs keep falling over until Elinor and her friends realize they need "roots" like a tree.

Curriculum Goals; LS2. Understand that that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow: b. Identify the basic parts of plants and their function d. Explore how different external features of an animal or plant help it survive in its environment. (Elinor and her friends notice that the roots keep a tree from falling over.)

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function'):
Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world. (Elinor and her friends copy the idea of "roots" by burying the bottom of their signposts in the ground).

SEP 8 Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

- Describe how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) support a scientific or engineering idea
- Obtain information using various texts, and other media that will be useful in answering a scientific question and/or supporting a scientific claim. (Elinor and her friends rely on Olive's Nature Book to give them information about the tree's roots).

Designing Solutions (engineering)

- Construct evidence-based explanations for natural phenomena (science)
- Use tools and/or materials to design and/or build a device that provides a solution to a specific problem (engineering) (Elinor and her friends realize that the reason the tree stands up straight is because its roots are buried in the ground, and they decide to copy this idea to solve the problem of their signs falling over).

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SECOND DRAFT: January 22, 2020

1. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Mz. Mole addresses her excited students, who are sitting on the grass or lounging around in front of her.

1 MZ. MOLE 1
All right, class. Today is a very
special day. It's our NATURE
CELEBRATION!!

<SFX: YAY WALLA!!> The class is raring to go.

2 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 2
Everyone needs to help get ready.
Lizzie and Mary you're in charge of
showing off the Nature Artwork.
(angle on Lizzie and Mary
in front of the artwork
on a clothesline - one
end collapses, the Goat
Twins are covered in
artwork)
Koa and Tito you'll be gathering
the Nature Snacks from the class
garden.
(angle on Koa ready to go
with a shovel, Tito pops
up from behind a small
bush with a basket)
Elinor, Olive and Ari you're in
charge of setting up the Nature
Walk in the woods behind the
school. Everyone else helps set up
the decorations for our NATURE
CELEBRATION.

Our trio is stoked! They run to the entrance of their Nature Walk (a semi-circular path through the forest that takes you back to the playground - the exit is not far away).

3 ARI 3
Yes! Our Nature Walk is gonna ROCK.

4 OLIVE 4
And tree and flower too!

5 ARI 5
Hehe, good one Olive.

6 ELINOR 6
I can't WAIT! We're gonna show our
friends ALL the amazing nature
around here..
(MORE)

ELINOR (CONT'D)

(she starts hopping)
...and here...and here!

*
*

7 OLIVE 7
Uh, Elinor, our Nature Walk is this way.

*
*
*

Olive points towards the forest.

*

8 ELINOR 8
(giggling)
Oh, right. Thanks, Olive.

*
*
*

Olive takes out her notebook.

*

9 OLIVE 9
Remember, we picked out a really nice path with great spots to stop and notice nature.

*
*
*
*

ANGLE ON: Olive's notebook shows a little diagram of the Nature Walk with stops at the Beehive, the Bird's Nest and the Willow Tree.

*
*
*

10 ELINOR 10
Looks good in your notebook, Olive, but how will our friends know which way to go when they're out in the forest?

*
*
*
*
*

11 ARI 11
No worries, I made these signs for just that reason - TAH-DAH!

*
*
*

Ari points. ANGLE ON: some small kid-like arrow signs set up close by (they stand up on bases of X shaped crosses).

*
*

12 ELINOR 12
Those'll work.

*
*

13 OLIVE 13
Yep, they'll show our friends the right way to go.

*
*
*

14 ARI 14
Okay, lets do this.

*
*

Ari grabs the signs and antics to run off.

*

15 ELINOR 15
Uh Ari, aren't you forgetting something?
(Ari stops, uncertain.
<SFX: UHHHH WALLA>)
(MORE)

*
*

ELINOR (CONT'D)

(good natured)

The first arrow! To mark the entrance.

*

16

ARI

16

(a revelation)

Oh, riiiiiiight.

Ari runs back and sets up the first arrow, but it wobbles a bit (the cross/feet of the signs are a bit small).

17

OLIVE

17

Great. Now let's set up the rest of the Nature Walk!

*

The kids run off but we stay on the arrow. A beat, then it falls over.

2. EXT. NATURE WALK (BEEHIVE) -- DAY

*

The kids run on-screen.

18

ARI

18

(like an announcer)

And now, my favourite spot on the Nature Walk...

(Ari gestures)

The BEEHIVE!

*

*

*

The kids all look the way Ari is pointing (it's not too far up, and it's obvious). <SFX: WHOOAA>

19

OLIVE

19

It's dripping with honey!

20

ARI

20

It is?

(He looks up and the honey drips on his face near his mouth)

It IS!

(he licks the honey away)

Mmmmmmm. Honey.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

21

ELINOR

21

Sweet! Our friends are gonna love it. Okay, let's set up another sign so it points to the next spot.

*

*

*

Olive checks her notebook then points.

*

22

OLIVE

22

This way!

*

*

Ari sets up the sign, then they all run off. *

3. EXT. NATURE WALK (BIRD'S NEST) - DAY *

They come running OS, with Elinor in the lead.

23 ELINOR 23
Next stop...the bird's nest! *

She gestures. ANGLE ON: a bird's nest, again, not too far up. Suddenly a baby bird pops out.

24 OLIVE 24
Oh, look! There's a baby bird! *

25 ELINOR 25
That's why I picked this spot. *

26 ARI 26
Nice one, Elinor. Where to next? *

Olive checks her notebook and points. *

27 OLIVE 27
That-a-way!

Ari sets up the sign and off they go. *

4. EXT. NATURE WALK (WILLOW TREE) - DAY *

CU: Olive, excited and in Vanna White mode. *

28 OLIVE 28
And now, my spot on the Nature
Walk.
(she waves her arm with a
flourish)
The Willow Tree! *

WIDEN TO REVEAL: The Willow Tree, and it is truly
spectacular. *

29 ARI 29
This willow tree is AMAZING Olive.
Look at the nice big branches.

30 ELINOR 30
And strong trunk - this tree isn't
going anywhere. *

31	OLIVE	31	
	Yep. That's why I love trees.		*
	(she pats the trunk)		*
	They're always right there where		*
	you left them.		*
32	ELINOR	32	
	So all we have to do is set up the		
	next..whoooa!		*
Elinor trips and almost falls.			
33	ARI	33	*
	Are you okay, Elinor? What		*
	happened?		*
34	ELINOR	34	
	I'm okay. I just tripped over		*
	something, oh I see...		
	(she observes the willow		*
	tree roots carefully)		*
	Whoaa! This willow has big roots.		*
Meanwhile, Olive checks her notebook.			
35	OLIVE	35	
	Okay, this is the last spot on our		*
	nature walk, so the last sign		*
	should point the way back to the		*
	playground. That way!		*
Olive points. Ari sets up the final sign. Then the kids run			
OS.			
5. EXT. NATURE WALK (ENTRANCE) -- DAY			
The kids arrive back at the schoolyard, now all decorated.			
Mz. Mole stands amidst her class.			
36	MZ. MOLE	36	*
	Looks like we're all ready.		*
	(announcing with joy)		*
	Let the Nature Celebration begin!!		*
The kids <SFX: CHEER WALLA>			
37	ELINOR	37	*
	Ooooh, I can't WAIT for our friends		*
	to try our Nature Walk!		*
Elinor, Ari and Olive run back to the entrance. Ari notices			
the sign on the ground.			

38	ARI	38	
	Uh-oh. The sign fell over.		*
	(he picks it up)		*
	There. Now we're really ready.		*
39	ELINOR	39	
	All we need are some friends.		
	A beat. The kids look around. The other kids (Sally, Lizzie, Mary, others) are playing around, no one is paying attention to them.		*
			*
40	ARI	40	
	Leave this to me...		
	(Ari steps up and assumes a pose, announcing like a carnival barker)		*
	Step right up folks and see the wonders of NATURE. The bees...		*
	Elinor and Olive start getting into it.		
41	ELINOR	41	
	The birds!		
42	OLIVE	42	
	The amazing TREES!		
	At this moment Sally Beaver walks by and stops dead.		
43	SALLY	43	
	Trees? Did you say trees? I LOVE trees! And sticks! Will there be sticks?		*
			*
			*
44	OLIVE	44	
	There will definitely be sticks, Sally. Step right up and enjoy our nature walk!		*
			*
45	SALLY	45	
	Okay, which way do I go?		*
			*
46	ARI	46	
	Just follow the signs.		*
	Sally points to the first sign.		*
47	SALLY	47	
	This way?		*
			*
48	ARI	48	
	You got it.		*
			*

Sally walks off. Meanwhile Koa and Tito come walking around the school with a basket of veggies and shovels. *

49 ELINOR 49
(calling)
Tito! Koa! Want to go on our
Nature Walk? *

Koa and Tito look at each other and smile. Then run to the kids (leaving behind their gardening shovel).

6. EXT. NATURE WALK (BEEHIVE) -- DAY *

Sally Beaver gets to the Beehive.

50 SALLY 50
(singing to herself)
Sticks, sticks, sticks, sticks...
(she stops when she sees)
Oh! Bees! Awesome! Look at that
hive, it's just dripping with
honey.

She nabs a drip of honey on her paw and puts it in her mouth, then she admires the bees for a beat.

51 SALLY (CONT'D) 51
Mmmm, I wonder where I should go
next.
(She notices the sign.)
Oh, right, follow the sign. *

She starts going in that direction when she sees something on the ground.

52 SALLY (CONT'D) 52
<GASP!> A stick!

She bends down to pick it up but as she does she gently knocks into the arrow sign. She doesn't notice it wobbling as she walks off happily with her stick. Then it falls over.

A beat, then Koa and Tito arrive.

53 TITO 53
Look! A beehive! *

They each grab a drip of honey with their fingers. <SFX: Mmmmm WALLA>

54 KOA 54
Now which way should we go? *

55	TITO	55	
	They said to follow the signs.		*
56	KOA	56	
	Oh, there's one.		
	They see the sign on the ground. It points the wrong direction. They look at each other, shrug, then follow the sign into the forest.		*
	7. EXT. NATURE WALK (BIRD'S NEST) - DAY		*
	We see the sign, waiting, with the Momma bird perched on it. As we hear Sally approach the bird takes off and the sign falls over into some bushes just before she appears.		*
57	SALLY (O.C.)	57	
	(singing to herself)		
	One stick, two sticks, three sticks		*
	four...		*
	(arriving)		
	Hey! A bird's nest.		*
	(the baby bird pokes out)		
	And a BABY! How tweet, tweet,		*
	tweet!		*
	(observes for a moment, satisfied)		
	This is a great nature walk. I wonder which way I should go next.		
	Hmmm, I don't see another sign.		*
	(she looks around, confused, then makes up her mind)		*
	Maybe it's this way. Hope there's some sticks.		*
	(singing to herself)		
	Five sticks, six sticks, seven sticks, more!		*
	She walks off into the forest.		
	8. EXT. NATURE WALK (ENTRANCE)- DAY		*
	Ari is ushering the Goat Twins in.		
58	ARI	58	
	Right this way, enjoy your Nature Walk. Remember to follow the signs.		*
59	OLIVE	59	*
	Wow, our Nature Walk is sure popular.		*
	(MORE)		

OLIVE (CONT'D)

Everyone is going in - Sally and
Koa and Tito and Lizzie and Mary.

*

60

ELINOR

60

*

Bu-uuu, no one has come back yet.

*

ANGLE ON: The end of the walk, at the other side of the
playground. A beat.

*

61

ARI

61

*

I guess they're taking their time.

9. EXT. FOREST (BEEHIVE) - DAY

*

The twins arrive at the beehive location, see the sign on the
floor, and follow it the wrong way. Then the camera widens.

*

*

WIDE SHOT REVEALS: Sally, Koa, Tito, Mary and Lizzie are
wandering around in the forest. ANGLE ON: Sally bumps into
Koa and Tito.

62

SALLY

62

Koa! Tito! Do you know which way
we're supposed to go next?

63

KOA

63

Uh, nope. They told us to follow
the signs, but I don't see any.

*

64

SALLY

64

Me neither.

Suddenly the Goat Twins arrive.

65

MARY AND LIZZIE

65

Us neither.

66

TITO

66

Uh-oh, are we lost?

10. EXT. NATURE WALK (ENTRANCE) -- DAY

*

The kids are waiting for their friends, looking towards the
exit.

*

*

67

OLIVE

67

Why is no one coming out?

*

68

ARI

68

Yeah, they should be back by now.

*

*

*

At that moment Sally, Koa, Tito, Lizzie and Mary all emerge

*

from the forest back at the playground.

69	ELINOR	69	*
	There you are!		*
70	ARI	70	*
	What happened?		*
71	OLIVE	71	*
	Did you see all the Nature sights?		*
72	KOA	72	*
	Uhh, not really.		*
73	TITO	73	*
	We got lost.		*
74	ARI	74	*
	Lost? How could you get lost?		*
75	ELINOR	75	*
	Didn't you follow the signs?		*
76	KOA	76	*
	We only saw one sign.		*
77	TITO	77	*
	And it pointed us the wrong way.		*
	Our trio is confused:		*
78	ARI	78	*
	I wonder what happened to all our signs?		*
79	ELINOR	79	*
	We need more observations!		*
	As they go to leave, Ari accidentally knocks the first sign over again.		*
80	ARI	80	
	Man, these signs sure are tippy.		
	Elinor watches, interested, as he corrects it. <SFX: Hmmm>.		*
	Then the kids run off.		*
	11. EXT. BEEHIVE -- DAY		*
	The kids arrive.		*
81	ELINOR	81	*
	Where's the sign?		*

Olive notices. *

82 OLIVE 82 *
There it is, it fell on the ground *
and it's pointing the wrong way. *

83 ARI 83 *
No wonder everyone got lost. *

Ari stands it back up. *

84 ELINOR 84 *
Let's go check the next sign. *

12. EXT. FOREST (BIRD'S NEST) - DAY *

They look around for the sign. Elinor spots it. *

85 ELINOR 85 *
It's over there *

86 ARI 86 *
It must have fallen into these *
bushes. *

Together they pick it back up. *

87 OLIVE 87 *
Let's go check on the last sign. *

Off they go. *

13. EXT. WILLOW TREE - DAY *

The kids emerge from the forest and find the last sign in *
it's rightful place. *

88 ARI 88 *
Phew! At least this sign is still *
stand... *
(he trips on the root) *
Whooops. *

89 ELINOR 89 *
Oh, no! Not that root again. *

Ari does one of his patented flips (accidentally knocking *
into the sign without noticing - it teeters). He lands, *
leaning casually on the Willow Tree as if to look cool. *

90	ARI	90	
	I meant to do that.		
	(The sign falls over)		*
	But not that.		*
	Olive picks it up.		*
91	OLIVE	91	*
	It's not your fault Ari, these		*
	signs are so tippy.		*
92	ELINOR	92	*
	That's the problem, they keep		*
	falling over.		*
93	OLIVE	93	*
	You're right, Elinor. How are we		*
	going to keep our signs from		*
	falling?		*
94	ARI	94	*
	Hmmm, good question.		*
	(He leans on the tree		*
	again)		*
	Let's think about this.		*
	As Olive and Ari think (Olive pacing, Ari leaning) Elinor is		*
	observing Ari.		*
95	ELINOR	95	
	Wait a minute Ari, I think you're		*
	LEANING onto something!		*
96	ARI	96	*
	I am?		*
97	OLIVE	97	*
	He is?		*
98	ELINOR	98	*
	Look at the tree. It doesn't fall		*
	over when you lean on it, like the		
	sign did.		
99	ARI	99	
	Huh, you're right.		
	(Ari pushes on it)		*
	It won't budge.		*
	The other kids join him - they push and push, but the tree		
	doesn't fall, it keeps standing straight and tall.		
100	ARI (CONT'D)	100	*
	It's like it's stuck to the ground.		

101	ELINOR	101	
	(the penny drops)		
	Stuck to the ground...that's it!		
	The tree IS stuck to the ground -		
	by its roots.		*
	Elinor points to the big root. The kids all gather and		*
	observe. Ari gives the root a little kick.		
102	ARI	102	
	These roots really are stuck, they		
	must be buried deep in the ground.		
103	OLIVE	103	
	Yep, a big tree like this has big		
	roots that go waaay down. I saw a		
	picture in my Nature Book.		
	She takes out her Nature Book from her satchel and the kids		
	gather around. ANGLE ON: A cross section picture of a big		
	tree with the roots revealed. SFX: COOL, AWESOME WALLA>		
104	ELINOR	104	
	You know what? This picture gives		
	me an idea.		
105	ARI	105	*
	We should grow TREE-SIGNS!		*
	THOUGHT BUBBLE reveals signs growing from the ground.		*
106	ELINOR	106	*
	I don't think we have time for that		*
	Ari, but what if we bury the		*
	bottoms of the signs - like tree		*
	roots.		*
107	OLIVE	107	*
	That should work, but how can we		
	dig?		
108	ARI	108	*
	I have an idea - one sec.		*
	(Ari runs to the exit,		*
	it's not far, and calls		*
	OC)		*
	Koa, can I borrow your gardening		*
	shovel.		*
	(a beat, then)		*
	Thank you.		*
	Ari runs back to Olive and Elinor brandishing his shovel.		*

109	ELINOR	109	*
	Let's get digging!		*
 14. SIGN BURYING MONTAGE:			*
The kids sing as they bury signs, first at the Willow Tree.			*
110	ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI	110	
	ELINOR: Trees have roots, That hold them steady, Through wind and rain, They're always ready.		
Then the Bird's Nest.			*
	OLIVE: Our signs need to stay up, So our friends can get around, So we'll bury the bottom, Like a root in the ground.		
Then the Beehive.			*
	ARI: When our signs are strong and straight, We'll all know where to go, Our Nature Walk will be great And everyone will know.		
Then the Entrance.			*
	ALL: With roots, roots, roots, Trees and signs stay up strong. With roots, roots, roots You can't go wrong.		
 15. EXT. NATURE WALK - DAY			*
Mz. Mole and the class are gathered around our trio.			
111	ARI	111	
	Step right up and enjoy our Nature Walk, with our new, improved SIGNS that won't fall over.		
Ari gestures, Mz. Mole and the class follow the first sign. Ari, Olive and Elinor follow along.			
BEEHIVE - with solid sign. Ari gestures, the class admires.			
112	ARI (CONT'D)	112	
	Here's the beehive,		

<SFX: OOOH WALLA> then they follow the sign to...

BIRD'S NEST - solid sign, Elinor gestures, the class admires.

113	ELINOR	113
	Here's the bird's nest, with a baby bird.	

At this moment the Momma bird appears and feeds the baby a nice vegetarian snack. <SFX: AWWW WALLA>

WILLOW TREE - Olive gestures.

114	OLIVE	114
	And HERE is the last part of our Nature Walk - The WILLOW TREE!	

<SFX: WOOOOWW>. The kids take a moment to admire the beauty, then <SFX: CHEERING!!> They all rush to it and start climbing it at once (under Mz. Mole's supervision). Ari, Olive and Elinor watch proudly.

115	ARI	115	*
	Now THAT looks like FUN!!		*

He runs to the tree and starts doing patented Ari flips and jumps and ends by hanging upside down. *

116	ARI (CONT'D)	116	*
	Ta-DAH!		*

117	ELINOR	117	*
	(to Olive)		*
	Good thing that tree has really strong roots!		

They share a smile, then run off to join their friends.

IRIS OUT

THE END. *