

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW 173: ELINOR'S FISHY FRIEND

Written by
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Elinor's Question: What happened to Elinor's fish friend Spotty?
Logline: Elinor makes friends with a fish she names Spotty, but then something amazing happens, Spotty grows LEGS.

LS4. Understand that all animals and plants have a life cycle, can reproduce, and change and grow over time:

- a. Observe the life cycle of familiar plants and animals
- b. Observe the growth in animals and plants
- c. Understand that living things grow and change over time (Elinor and her friends observe the different stages in the life cycle of a frog).

LS7. Understand that young animals and young plants are very much, but not exactly like their parents:

- a. Understand that the young of a species are the same kind of animal or plant as the parents
- b. Arrange and compare illustrations of humans and other animals in developmental sequence from infancy to adult (Elinor and her friends arrange drawings of Spotty into a developmental sequence as it matures from tadpole to froglet to frog).

SEP1. Asking questions (science) and defining problems (engineering)

- a. Demonstrate curiosity about the greater world outside of their local environment
- 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 ask questions about Spotty's changes, and decide to investigate)

SEP2. Developing and using models

- a. Represent observable, concrete objects, events, and findings in many different ways
- c. Use simple models to support explanations (Elinor and her friends make pictures of the various stages of the frog's development).

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

- b. Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail

(Elinor and her friends compare the different stages of the frog's development)

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data

a. Collect, describe, and record observations in greater detail and in various ways

(Elinor and her friends collect data on the various stages of a frog's life).

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 observe and discuss the changes they see in Spotty and the other tadpoles.

SEP8. Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information

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

f. Share findings and explanations (correct or incorrect) through a variety of methods

(Elinor and her friends share their findings with Mr. Rabbit by using drawings, and they discuss what they have discovered with him).

FIRST DRAFT: April 28, 2020

1. INT. ELINOR'S ROOM -- DAY

ELINOR is in her room, getting ready for school, humming to herself as she gathers her things for her backpack.

DESIGN NOTE: Her room is decorated with home-made fish that she's drawn, or cut out of construction paper, or made from paper plates, or whatever. Maybe she's even made a "fish mobile" to hang over her bed.

1	ELINOR	1
	(sing-song)	
	Fish, fish, fishy, fishy, fish,	
	fish, fish...	

She takes one fish drawing off the wall, grabs her backpack and runs out of the room.

2. INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Elinor is at the table, eating her breakfast and gazing at her fish picture as MR. RABBIT makes flapjacks (pancakes).

2	ELINOR	2
	Hey Dad! Did you know fish eat	
	their breakfast underwater?	

3	MR. RABBIT	3
	Really? That would make for some	
	soggy carrot flapjacks.	

4	ELINOR	4
	(giggling)	
	Daddy, fish don't eat flapjacks	
	they eat underwater plants and	
	things.	

5	MR. RABBIT	5
	Riiight.	

6	ELINOR	6
	Fish do EVERYTHING underwater -	
	eat, swim, play - even sleep.	

7	MR. RABBIT	7
	Do tell.	

8	ELINOR	8
	Uh-huh, they are sooo interesting.	

RANGER RABBIT enters.

9 RANGER RABBIT 9
Ohh, carrot flapjacks!

10 MR. RABBIT 10
(formally, like a waiter)
Your breakfast is served madame.

He puts a stack in front of Ranger Rabbit but just as she's about to dig in she notices her watch (or a clock on the wall).

11 RANGER RABBIT 11
Uh-oh. It's later than I thought -
we'd better hurry up Elinor, or
you'll be late for school.

12 MR. RABBIT 12
I'll make those flapjacks to go.

13 ELINOR 13
<GASP!> Mom! Did you know that a
group of fish is called a school.
Just like my school. I can't wait
to tell Mz. Mole.

She hops off. Mr. Rabbit hands Ranger Rabbit a paper bag and gives her a kiss on the cheek.

14 MR. RABBIT 14
I think Elinor is on a bit of a
fish-kick.

15 RANGER RABBIT 15
You don't say.

3. EXT. PATH ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL - DAY

Elinor is hopping along ahead of her Mom.

16 ELINOR 16
(sing-song)
Fish, fish, fishy, fishy, fish,
fish, fish...

They comes to a small crossroad in the path - the other path is obviously a little less used (this is not far from her house, we see the house in view).

17 RANGER RABBIT 17
We don't have much time. You'd
better take the shortcut to school
today, Elinor.

18 ELINOR 18
Okay.

Ranger Rabbit gives her a kiss.

19 RANGER RABBIT 19
See you tonight, hunny bunny. Have
a great day.

20 ELINOR 20
Bye, Mom!

Elinor waves to Ranger Rabbit who watches as she hops off
onto a smaller path (maybe with the school in view?).

4. EXT. SHORTCUT PATH - DAY

She hopping along.

21 ELINOR 21
Fish, fish, FISH!!!

Suddenly <SFX: SPLASH> from the pool. Elinor is puzzled.

22 ELINOR (CONT'D) 22
Whu?

She looks closely at the little pool of water.

23 ELINOR (CONT'D) 23
<GASP!> A fish! A REAL fish!

ANGLE ON: Spotty is a bullfrog tadpole, nice and fat - and
spotty!

24 ELINOR (CONT'D) 24
Wow! Look at the way you swim, and
your nice long tail, and your
spots. Would you like to be my
fishy friend?

ANGLE ON: The tadpole looks at Elinor in a friendly way
(they do look friendly!)

25 ELINOR (CONT'D) 25
You would? Awesome, I'm going to
name you...
(she thinks)
SPOTTY!

At this moment she hears <SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGING> in the
distance.

26 ELINOR (CONT'D) 26
<GASP!> Gotta get to school.
(she hops off)
See you later, Spotty!

5. EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Elinor bounces into the schoolyard, very excited.

27 ELINOR 27
Olive! Ari! Guess what? I just
saw a fish!

28 ARI 28
A fish? You mean like the ones
you've been drawing?

29 OLIVE 29
(giggling)
Yeah, you've kind of been on a fish
kick lately, Elinor.

30 ELINOR 30
No, a REAL fish! One that lives
underwater. I named her Spotty!
Come on, I'll draw a picture to
show you.

They all run into the school.

6. EXT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Elinor is busily drawing as Ari and Olive look on.

31 ELINOR 31
I was taking the shortcut to
school, and there was this tiny
pool of water, and I heard a
SPLASH, and then I looked down
and...

32 OLIVE/ARI 32
Whooooa!

ANGLE ON: Elinor's drawing of Spotty.

33 ARI (O.C.) 33
Now that is a cool fish.

34 ELINOR (O.C.) 34
She really is!

WIDEN TO REVEAL: OLIVE and ARI are admiring the drawing.

35 ELINOR (CONT'D) 35
She has such a neat shape and such
a nice colour. And she swims in
such an interesting way - she kind
of wiggles, like this.

Elinor wiggles, Olive and Ari <SFX: GIGGLES>

36 OLIVE 36
I love her eyes, she looks so
friendly.

37 ARI 37

I like her spots. Spots are soo
cool. I wish I had spots.

38 OLIVE 38
 (helpfully)
Well, you have wings, Ari. And
wings are very cool too.

39 Oh, yeah, ARI 39

He does a little flutter flip.

40	ARI (CONT'D)	40
	Hey. You know what would be the	
	coolest - SPOTTED WINGS!	

41 ELINOR 41
That would be cool.

Meanwhile Olive is admiring Elinor's drawing.

42 OLIVE 42
I'd sure like to meet Spotty one
day.

43 Me too. ARI 43

44 ELINOR 44
I'll introduce you, next time we're
in her part of the forest.

7. EXT. SHORTCUT PATH - A FEW DAYS LATER

Elinor is hopping through the forest.

45 ELINOR 45
Oh! There's Spotty's pond.

She hops over and looks down.

46 ELINOR (CONT'D) 46
Spotty? Oh, Spoooootty...

A little <SPLASH>.

47 ELINOR (CONT'D) 47
<GASP!> There you are! Hi Spotty!

She bends down to look.

48 ELINOR (CONT'D) 48
Sorry I haven't visited in a few
days. I walked to school the long
way with my Mom. How are you
doing?

Another <SFX: SPLASH>

49 ELINOR (CONT'D) 49
(giggles)
Oh, very splashy I see.
(she notices)
Wait a second. What are those?

ANGLE ON: Spotty - we can see she has two little bumps on her
sides.

50 ELINOR (CONT'D) 50
Spotty you have two bumps on you.
What ARE they?

Spotty <SFX: SPLASHES> again.

51 ELINOR (CONT'D) 51
Well, whatever they are, they don't
seem to slow you down.

At that moment we hear the <SFX: SCHOOL BELL>.

52 ELINOR (CONT'D) 52
Ooops, gotta go to school. I'll
check on you later, okay, Spotty?

8. TIME-PASSING MONTAGE

Elinor shows more pictures of Spotty to Olive and Ari in the
schoolyard.

Elinor is telling her parents about Spotty over dinner with a drawing.

Elinor is looking out the window. It's raining. She turns back to her craft table and starts drawing more pictures of Spotty.

Elinor in her room, putting up a picture of Spotty overtop of her fish pictures.

Elinor has made a "Fish mask" - a green balaclava with spots. She puts it on and compares herself to her picture of Spotty - twins!

END MONTAGE

9. EXT. SHORTCUT TO SCHOOL - DAY

Elinor is wearing her balaclava as she hops along on her way to school again (she will wear it for the rest of the Episode).

53	ELINOR	53
	I can't wait to show Spotty my fish mask. We look just the same!	

She gets to the little pond, there's a <SFX: SPLASH>.

54	ELINOR (CONT'D)	54
	Hey Spotty! Sorry I didn't visit for a while. Look what I made!	

She models her mask.

55	ELINOR (CONT'D)	55
	I'm a fish too, just like... (then she notices) Spotty?	

ANGLE ON: Spotty in the water now has legs!

56	ELINOR (CONT'D)	56
	OH MY GOODNESS! Spotty! You have LEGS!!! How can that be? (she considers) I HAVE to tell Olive and Ari about this.	

She hops off.

10. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Olive and Ari are gobsmacked about the news.

57 OLIVE 57
Legs? Really?

58 ELINOR 58
Yes! They started out as little
bumps but now Spotty has LEGS!

59 ARI 59
Awesome! That's even cooler than
your fish mask Elinor.

60 ELINOR 60
Thanks, Ari. I made it so Spotty
and I could be the same.

61 OLIVE 61
(giggling)
And now you're even more the same,
'cause you both have legs.

62 ARI 62
A fish with legs. I gotta see that.

63 OLIVE 63
Me too.

64 ELINOR 64
Okay! I'll take you to meet Spotty,
right after school. You're gonna be
amazed!

11. EXT. PUDDLE ON THE PATH - DAY

The kids are running through the forest.

65 ELINOR 65
Spotty's pond is just over here.

They arrive, Elinor points. <SFX: SPLASH>

66 ELINOR (CONT'D) 66
There she is.

ANGLE ON: Spotty, with legs.

67 OLIVE 67
Wow, you're right Elinor. Spotty
IS a fish with legs.

68 ARI 68
How can that even be?

69 OLIVE 69
Dun, dun dunnn, it's a mystery. A
FISHY mystery.

70 ELINOR 70
We need MORE observations.

Elinor and Olive start observing (with the magnifying glass).

71 OLIVE 71
Hmmm. Spotty has legs all right,
but you know what she doesn't have?
Fins! Like other fish do.

ANGLE ON: Spotty, legs, no fins.

72 ELINOR 72
You're right, Olive. I never
noticed that before.

Meanwhile Ari has discovered a little bigger pond nearby
(very safe and puddle-like).

73 ARI 73
Olive, Elinor - come and look at
this!

They run over.

74 ARI (CONT'D) 74
I found a whole bunch of Spotties.

ANGLE ON: The pond with tadpoles at various stages. <SFX:
KIDS WOOOOW WALLA>

75 ELINOR 75
There sure ARE a lot of Spotties.
But...they don't all look the same.

ANGLE ON: Olive takes out her notebook.

76 OLIVE 76
I'd better take some notes.

BACK ON: The tadpoles.

77 ELINOR 77
That one looks like Spotty used to -
no legs at all.

88 ELINOR 88
Maybe not.

At this moment Mr. Rabbit joins them (Elinor's house is not far).

89 MR. RABBIT 89
Hey, kids. I saw you looking at something really closely. What are you up to?

90 ELINOR 90
It's Spotty, Daddy!

91 MR. RABBIT 91
What about Spotty?

92 ELINOR 92
She has...LEGS!

93 MR. RABBIT 93
Legs? But I thought Spotty was a fish?

94 ELINOR 94
I thought so too, but now we're thinking she might be...a frog.

95 MR. RABBIT 95
A frog? Let me see.

ANGLE ON: Spotty.

96 MR. RABBIT (CONT'D) 96
I think you're right kids. I think Spotty is on her way to becoming a frog.

97 ELINOR 97
On her way? What do you mean on her way, Daddy.

98 MR. RABBIT 98
Well, you see frogs start out as eggs.

ANGLE ON: Maybe he points to some frog eggs.

99 ARI 99
Really? I thought only birds lay eggs.

100 MR. RABBIT 100
Frogs do too, and so do some other
animals, like turtles and lizards.
Then, when the frog eggs hatch,
they look like little fish but
they're called tadpoles.

He points to a tadpole in the pond.

101 OLIVE 101
Tadpoles! I LIKE that word!

102 MR. RABBIT 102
Then the tadpoles grow legs and
arms too, and are called froglets.

103 OLIVE 103
I like that word too - Froglets!

104 ELINOR 104
I think I understand what's
happening.

105 MR. RABBIT 105
Then the froglets lose their tails,
which doesn't hurt them at all, and
become frogs.

They are all amazed at this, <SFX: WOOW WALLA>

106 ELINOR 106
(sure now)
That means... Spotty is NOT a fish.
She's a tadpole, turning into a
FROG!

107 MR. RABBIT 107
You got it, Elinor!

SONG MONTAGE

As we sing the song Elinor follows Spotty on her journey as
she turns into a frog.

108 ELINOR/ARI/ OLIVE 108
ELINOR: Every little frog
Starts with an egg
And when it hatches
It has no legs

ARI: A tadpole's not much more
Than a tail and a head
OLIVE: But it will grow and change
(MORE)

ELINOR/ARI/ OLIVE (CONT'D)
And become a frog instead.

ALL Grow and change
Grow and change
Baby frogs
Grow and change.

ELINOR: A tadpole swims around
Happy in their pond
But soon they grow back legs
That they can jump on.

OLIVE: When the front legs come
A froglet becomes a frog
ARI: And climbs out of the water
To sit happy on a log.

ALL: Grow and change
Grow and change
Baby frogs,
Grow and change

Grow and change
Grow and change
ELINOR: My friend Spotty
Will grow and change.

12. INT. ELINOR'S ROOM -- DAY

CU: Elinor is now putting up the pictures she drew of Spotty
(or Olive's drawings) in each different stage.

109	ELINOR	109
	(sing-song)	
	Frog, frog, froggy, froggy, frog,	
	frog, frog.	

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Her parents are watching.

110	ELINOR (CONT'D)	110
	Ooops, I mean...	
	(she indicates)	
	Egg, Tadpole, tadpole with legs,	
	froglet and frog. And they are ALL	
	Spotty!	

111	RANGER RABBIT	111
	Very nice, Elinor.	

112	MR. RABBIT	112
	They ALL look just like Spotty to	
	me! And so do you, by the way.	

113

ELINOR

113

Thanks. I wanted a fish friend but
it turns out Spotty wasn't a fish
after all. She's a FROG. But that's
okay because frogs are SO cool, and
now I have a frog mask AND a frog
friend.

FADE OUT: as she starts riffing about frogs.

114

ELINOR (CONT'D)

114

(fade out)
Did you know frogs can live on land
AND in the water, and that they
really do sit on lilypads, and they
really love to hop, and they have
long sticky tongues and....

THE END