

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW 129B Rocky The Rock

By Katherine Sandford

Kel's
Script

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

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

13 ARI 13
I made a rock smile? Really?

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

Yes, they do say WH0000.

Says me, that's who!

I made a rock smile? Really?

14

OLIVE
YES! Look...

14

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
Wow!

15

(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)

Ahahahahahah-heheh...

The other kids <SFX: LAUGH> too.

16

ARI (CONT'D)

16

Rock, we are going to be good friends. I will call 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

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

19

MZ. MOLE

(smiling along with the joke)
Well, hello! Pleased to meet you, Rocky. I hope you have a good time in our class.

20

ARI

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

And now, my favorite 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 FAVORITE!

(He starts to munch a pickle, then glances at Rocky.)

(MORE)

21

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

Whatcha doing, Ari?

22

23

ARI

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

23

24

ELINOR

Aww, that's so nice.

24

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

25

ARI

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

25

26

OLIVE

Maybe he doesn't like pickles?

26

27

ARI

(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?

27

28

OLIVE

I dunno, maybe mud pies?

28

29

ELINOR

Or maybe... nothing?

(thoughtfully)

Maybe rocks don't eat. Are they even alive?

29

30

OLIVE

Good question. I've never thought about that before.

30

31

ARI

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

31

32

OLIVE

Dun, dun, dunnn, sounds like a
mystery. Is Rocky the rock alive -
or not?

32

33

ELINOR

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

33

34

OLIVE

Good idea. We can see how they're
different and how they're the same.
How about we compare Rocky
to...ARI!

34

Olive takes out her notebook and starts a chart with two
columns - then she draws a picture of Ari at the top of one
column, and a picture of Rocky on the top of the other.

35

ARI

Good choice. I am definitely ALIVE!

35

Ari eats a pickle. <SFX: MUNCH, MUNCH>

36

ELINOR

Okay. First thing, Ari is REALLY
good at eating. Rocky, not so much.

36

37

OLIVE

Eating, got it.

37

ANGLE ON: Olive draws a pickle under Ari and not under Rocky.

CROSSFADE TO:

5. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

They continue their observations.

38

ARI

Ok, what else do things that are
alive do?

38

39

ELINOR

You just did it right now.

39

40 I did? ARI 40

41 Oh, talking! Right! Rocky doesn't OLIVE 41
talk, so that's one more thing we
do that Rocky doesn't.

42 ARI 42
(thinking this through)
Yeah...but...trees don't talk. And
I'm pretty sure they're alive.

43 OLIVE 43
You're right. Butterflies don't
talk either. And they are
DEFINITELY alive.

The kids observe a butterfly fluttering by.

44 ELINOR 44
Hmmm, that's true. So you don't
have to talk to be alive.

45 OLIVE 45
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.

46 ARI 46
How about this?

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

47 ARI (CONT'D) 47
Or THIS!

He does The Robot.

48 ARI (CONT'D) 48
Or THIS!

He flies up to a tree and hangs upside down.

49 OLIVE 49
(laughing)
Nice moves, Ari.

Elinor is excited, she starts hopping.

50

ELINOR

That's one thing Ari does for sure.
He moves, A LOT!

Olive looks at Elinor with amusement as she bounces around.

51

OLIVE

And he's not the only one that
moves. 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.

52

ELINOR

Wooooow! Alive things really do
move! Look at the butterfly
flutter.

53

OLIVE

And Rocky?

ANGLE ON: The rock.

54

ELINOR

It doesn't look like he moves.

55

OLIVE

Now we have TWO things Ari and
other alive things do that Rocky
doesn't do - eat and move.

Olive draws a picture of a little bat hand waving to signify
"moving" under the pickle in Ari's column.

56

ARI

Wait a sec...watch this! Rocky CAN
move!

Ari tosses the rock up into the air, and does his spin and
catch.

57

OLIVE

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

58

ELINOR

Yeah! You moved Rocky.

Ari does his famous spin and catch.

59 **ARI** Yeah. But did you see how I caught Rocky! Pretty cool, right? 59

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

61 **ELINOR** They do, when they grow. 61

62 **ARI** Hmm, that's right. But do rocks grow? 62

63 **ELINOR** I don't know. It's hard to tell. I've never seen a rock grow. 63

64 **ARI** I've never seen a tree grow either, I just know they do it..very sloooooowly. 64

At this moment Mz. Mole walks by.

65 **OLIVE** I've never noticed Mz. Mole growing either. And she is DEFINITELY alive. 65

66 **ELINOR** Let's ask her. 66

The kids run over to Mz. Mole.

67 **ELINOR (CONT'D)** Mz. Mole, do you grow? 67

68 **MZ. MOLE** Well, only around the tummy when I've had a cheesy bagel at Mr. Raccoon's bakery. 68

69 **OLIVE** No, we mean do you grow taller, like a tree does? 69

70 **ARI** Or like me! I'm growing all the time, that's what my Mom says. 70

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 figure out if Rocky
is alive or not.

Ari holds up his rock.

77 ARI 77
So we can take care of him, just
like our parents take care of us.

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 alive things
do, like eat. And move or grow.

ANGLE ON: She shows Mz. Mole her chart.

81 ELINOR 81
And then we wrote down if Rocky
does them too.

82 MZ. MOLE 82
This is a wonderful investigation,
young scientists. Do you want to
include MORE scientists?

10ab
12

<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~~

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?

83

84

TITO

Rocks are pretty cool.

84

85

SILAS

And they're a lot of fun to play with.

85

<SFX: KIDS AGREE SURE IS WALLA>

86

~~MZ. MOLE~~

Well, let's figure it out together. So, everyone who thinks a rock is alive, stand over here, on ~~THAT~~ THIS side.

86

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)

And those who think a rock ISN'T alive stand over there, on ~~THIS~~ THAT side.

87

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~~

(to Rocky)
Don't worry Rocky, alive or not, you ~~are~~ ALWAYS awesome.
(to the class)
Am I right?

88

<SFX: RIGHT! FOR SURE WALLA>

89

~~MZ. MOLE~~

Okay, let's try and figure this out.

(MORE)

89

MOLE (CONT'D)

(to the three main kids) Now, tell us all about your observations.

Olive steps forward with her chart.

90

OLIVE

To figure out if a rock is alive we decided to compare Rocky to things we KNOW are alive...like butterflies and trees.

90

91

ELINOR

And ARI!
(Ari does a flip (or a Fortnite dance?)
(giggling)
Ari is very alive.

91

92

OLIVE

And this is what we found. Rocky can't do things that living things can do. Like eat.

92

Olive points to her picture of the pickle under Ari.

93

ARI

I can definitely do that!

93

<SFX: AGREEMENT, YOU SURE CAN WALLA FROM THE CLASS>

94

ELINOR

And MOVE...like Ari and other animals do.

94

She points to the picture of the waving hand under Ari.

95

ARI

Check out this move.

95

Ari moonwalks.

96

OLIVE

And we also wondered if a rock grows... like a tree.

96

Olive draws a picture of a small tree and then a bigger tree under the hand image.

97

ELINOR

Or like us kids.

97

98

ARI

Or like Mz. Mole..
(leans in to whisper)
(MORE)

98

98a

ARI (CONT'D)

Did you know she used to be 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 eat...or move or grow.

103

104

OLIVE

Like living things do.

104

105

MR. 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 still...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!

(MORE)

108

ARI (CONT'D)

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.

109 OLIVE 109
Of course we will, Ari. Rocky is
part of nature.

110 ELINOR 110
And ALL of nature needs our care.

111 ARI 111
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.

112 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI 112
ARI - My friend Rocky,
Happens to be a rock,
ELINOR: Rocky doesn't eat and
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 attention,
To all our nature friends,
(MORE)

ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI (CONT'D)

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

~~ARI~~
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!!

113

Ari runs out the door holding Rocky aloft.

114

~~ARI~~
Follow me - and ROCKY!!

114

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

115

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

116

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

116

Olive hugs the tree.

117

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

117

118

~~ARI~~
Well, I'm sticking with Rocky. He
never gets tired of my jokes. Knock-
knock, Rocky.

118

(Rocky's voice)

Who's there?

(Ari voice)

Ari.

(Rocky voice)

Ari who?

(Ari voice)

(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

Ari-n't you glad I didn't say knock-knock again?

(a beat then)

Rocky? Don't you think that's funny?

102

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

119

ARI (CONT'D)

Wha-oh, let me fix that for ya, buddy.

119

Ari turns him right side up.

120

ARI (CONT'D)

(Rocky's voice)

Ahhh, that's better, thanks Ari.
 AHAHAHAHAHA - that joke never gets old.

120

CU: On Rocky's cute smiling face.

IRIS OUT,

THE END

*