

ELINOR 'S TOWN

EP. #110 "The Tomato Drop"

By: Karen Moonah

Elinor's Question: *What makes some things fall slowly?*

Logline: *Elinor and friends build a parachute to help a tomato 'catch the air' and fall more slowly when dropped.*

LS2. Understand that animals 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: Elinor will notice how Ari's wings help him glide slowly to the ground, and that the shapes of the dandelion fluff, leaf and feather help them fall more slowly.

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 will design a little parachute to "catch the air" the way they have observed Ari's wings, the dandelion fluff, the leaf and the feather all do.

SEP 1. Asking Questions. d.) Identify a problem (how to drop a tomato without damaging it) that can be solved by the design of a new or improved object or tool.

SEP 3. Planning and carrying out investigations. b.) Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail. Elinor and her friends will drop items through the air and compare the speed of their descent, to find out what causes some objects to fall slowly and apply that to their problem.

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1. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK - DAY

ESTABLISHING. It's a sunny late summer day, and the park is decked out for a FESTIVAL! There are food stands and displays, and festive <MUSIC> plays OS.

In QUICK, CLOSE CUTS we establish a theme...

- FOOD STAND - MRS. GORILLA dumps TOMATOES into her giant stewpot, and attacks them with a masher...

- a TOMATO HEADED MASCOT circulates, waving hello. He shakes hands with a young BEAVER.

- CONTEST TABLE - FARMER BEAR is judging a TABLE FULL of BIG TOMATOES. Smiling, he hangs a RIBBON on the biggest one.

1	FARMER BEAR (ANNOUNCES)	1
	Grand Champion of the Tomato Festival!	

ELINOR, ARI and HAZEL (wearing BACKPACKS) are walking through. Hazel has a tomato-patterned scarf on her head, tied with a bow over one ear.

2	ARI	2
	Ahh, the Tomato Festival, my FAVOURITE part of tomato season!	

3	ELINOR	3
	Me too, I LOVE all the tomato-y things.	

4	HAZEL	4
	Like this scarf!	

Hazel stops at display of tomato-themed souvenirs, including big, silk scarf. She lifts up on end and lets the scarf slowly fall.

5	HAZEL (CONT'D)	5
	So big and floaty.	

Just then, a nearby P.A. SPEAKER squawks:

6	FARMER BEAR (VO, SPEAKER)	6
	Attention please! Everyone who wants to enter the Tomato Drop Challenge, please head to the contest area now.	

7	ARI (EXCITED)	7
	That's us! Come on, let's go!	

They head off.

CUT TO:

2. EXT. TOMATO DROP CONTEST AREA - CONTINUOUS

Ari, Hazel and Elinor join a group of kids at the contest area. (A set of LAMB TRIPLETS, and SALLY BEAVER.)

8 LAMBS /SALLY 8
(excited walla)

THREE LADDERS are widely spaced out on the grass. FARMER BEAR appears, with a basket of ripe tomatoes under one arm. He <WHISTLES> for attention, and the group quiets.

9 FARMER BEAR 9
Welcome to the tomato drop
challenge! Any team that can drop a
tomato from the top of their ladder
without splattering it, will win a
prize.

Elinor, Hazel and Ari exchange excited looks.

10 ELINOR 10
Oooh, a PRIZE!

Farmer Bear picks up the basket of tomatoes and begins handing them out, three to a team.

11 FARMER BEAR 11
Each team gets three tomatoes, and
you can build anything you like, to
try to keep them from splattering.

Farmer sets his basket aside, and gets an AIR HORN in hand.

12 FARMER BEAR (CONT'D) 12
Any questions? (beat) No?
In that case... Ready! Set!

The kids all get into a ready stance, clutching their fruit. Farmer Bear holds the air horn high...

13 FARMER BEAR (CONT'D) 13
...GOOO-MATO!

<HONNNNK!> He holds onto his straw hat as the kids stampede past, each team headed to their assigned ladder!

3. EXT. DROP LADDER - CONTINUOUS

Elinor, Ari and Hazel run with their tomatoes to their assigned ladder, and sling off their backpacks.

14 ARI 14
 Okay. I've got a great plan! We
 take two slices of bread...

Ari gets TWO SLICES OF BREAD from his pack and hurriedly tries to tie them around a tomato, with TWINE.

15 ARI (V.O.) 15
 ...and tie 'em around the tomato to
 cushion it when it drops!

CU ON: The bread rips and crumbles..

16 ELINOR 16
 Bread might be too crumbly, Ari.

17 ARI 17
 Eh, you're right.
 (brightens)
 How 'bout a bagel?

Undaunted, he pulls out a SLICED BAGEL.

18 HAZEL (DIPLOMATIC) 18
 Let's call that Plan B.

19 ELINOR 19
 I have an idea, too...

Elinor pulls a few items from her own pack. SPRINGS, TAPE, and a SMALL CARDBOARD BOX.

20 ELINOR (CONT'D) 20
 What if we take these springs I
 brought...

Elinor holds the end of a spring to the outside of the box, and squeezes the spring for emphasis.

21 ELINOR (CONT'D) 21
 ...and tape them to the outside of
 this box. Then we can put the
 tomato inside...

THOUGHT BUBBLE: Shows Elinor's idea. Hazel nods, catching her drift.

22 HAZEL 22
Oh! So when we drop the tomato,
it'll bounce instead of splat?

IN THE THOUGHT BUBBLE: The box bounces a few times and then
tomato pops out, perfect, then the bubble bursts.

23 ELINOR 23
Hopefully!

24 ARI 24
I love it! Let's try it!

They quickly get busy taping the springs all over the outside
of the box. As they work, we

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

4. EXT. DROP LADDER - MINUTES LATER

The box is now bristling with springs. Elinor places the
tomato into the box, and tapes it shut.

25 ELINOR (CALLS) 25
Farmer Bear? We're ready to try a
drop!

Farmer Bear heads over with a clipboard to watch the test.
Elinor climbs the ladder with their spring-covered box.

26 FARMER BEAR 26
That's one springy box! Ready when
you are.

With Hazel and Ari watching anxiously, Elinor dangles the box
from the top of the ladder - then releases it. Sure enough,
when it hits the ground it <BOUNCES... and BOUNCES... and
BOUNCES> around! Ari and Hazel scramble to catch it.

27 HAZEL 27
Whoa. <BOING> Hey! <BOING> Come
back here!

Finally, Ari seizes it.

28 ARI 28
<BOING> Gotcha!

Farmer Bear and the girls hurry over.

29 FARMER BEAR 29
Let's see what'cha got!

CLOSE ON the box as Ari opens it. REVEAL... a box full of splattered tomato.

30 ELINOR 30
(huff) Tomato sauce. I think it
bounced around too much.

Farmer Bear smiles sympathetically.

31 FARMER BEAR 31
Well, don't give up. You still have
two more tomatoes!

32 LAMB #1 (PART OS) 32
Farmer Bear? We're ready to try!

CUT TO: The LAMB TRIPLETS LADDER. One of the LAMBS is holding a HUGE BALL OF WOOL at the top of their ladder.

33 HAZEL 33
Oh look, they're using their wool
to make a softer landing!

Farmer Bear hurries over to witness their drop.

34 LAMB #1 34
Stand baa-a-a-ack!

The wool is dropped - it <FLOOFS> down gently. Lamb #2 reaches into the wool-ball, and pulls out - an intact tomato!

35 LAMB 1, 2, 3 / BEAVER / HAZEL / ARI / 35
ELINOR
(cheers)

[illegible]

BACK ON Elinor, Hazel and Ari, watching.

ARI
Cool! I wish we had some wool.

Just then, the <BREEZE> picks up, disturbing some nearby dandelions, which have gone to seed...

SCIENCE CU: Elinor notices the fluff floating by.

38 Ohhh! ELINOR 38

Elinor captures it in her hands, and holds it up.

39 ELINOR (CONT'D) 39
We don't need wool. We can use
dandelion fluff to pad the tomato,
like the wool.

THOUGHT BUBBLE: Hazel's plan, a tomato with dandelion fluff
taped to it.

40 HAZEL 40
Okay! But we'll need a lot of it.

In the THOUGHT BUBBLE: The dandelion fluff ball grows and
grows until the bubble BURSTS!

41 ARI 41
Then we'd better get fluffin'!

They all get busy gathering fluff from the dandelions all
around them. As 'fluff' fills the frame, we

'FLUFF' WIPE TO:

5. EXT. SAME LOCATION - MINUTES LATER

Elinor holds a PUFF OF DANDELION FLUFF (which keeps trying to
blow away) as Hazel tucks the tomato inside it.

42 ELINOR 42
Oh, the fluff is getting away!

43 HAZEL 43
Nothing a little tape can't fix.

Hazel <SQUICKS> out *more* than a little TAPE and rapidly wraps
it around the tomato to secure the fluffy padding.

44 ELINOR 44
All done!

ANGLE ON: The real tomato is much more sparsely covered than
the tomato in the thought bubble.

45 ARI 45
Farmer Bear! Can we try again?

CUT TO Farmer Bear, as he overhears and heads over. This time
Ari climbs the ladder, full of optimism.

46 ARI (CONT'D) 46
This time we've got the right
stuff. Or should I say, the right
fluff?

Elinor and Hazel shake their heads at his groaner joke.

47 ELINOR / HAZEL 47
(groan)

Ari drops the fluff-covered tomato from the top of the ladder. But to their dismay - <SPLAT!>

48 ELINOR 48
Aww! It smooshed again! Not enough
padding I guess.

49	FARMER BEAR	49
	Sorry, kids. Better make your last tomato count!	

Farmer Bear departs, scribbling on his clipboard.

ARI
Well, that was a mess. Now what?

Ari hops down from the ladder, spreading his wings to gently float down, in a slow, graceful glide. His wings billow as they 'catch the air'. Elinor notices.

51 ELINOR (SURPRISED) 51
Ari! You just jumped from the same
height as that tomato, but you
didn't get smooshed.

Ari gives her a puzzled look.

52 ARI 52

Of course not. When I hold my wings
out, they sort of 'catch the air'
so I can float down slowly.

Ari waves his wings, which 'poofs' up some dandelion fluff. Elinor watches the seeds descend too... *very slowly.*

53 ELINOR 53
Look! The dandelion seeds fall
slowly too!

CLOSER as a seed lands on her nose, and she goes cross-eyed.

54 ELINOR (CONT'D) 54
That's SOOO interesting! I wonder
makes the seed fall slowly like
that?

She removes the seed from her nose, and goes into her pack for her magnifying glass, to take a closer look.

MAGNIFYING GLASS C.U. of the DANDELION SEED - the seed dangles below a very puffy top.

55 ELINOR (OS) (CONT'D) 55
There's the seed... and it sure has
a big, fluffy top.

Elinor releases the seed, and they all watch how it falls.

EXTREME C.U. Of the seed, as the little fluffy fibres 'catch the air' and slow the seed's descent, with little "air" wiggly lines "catching" on the bottom of the puffy part..

[illegible]

57 ELINOR 57
Yes... kind of like how Ari's wings
do. So maybe 'catching the air' is
what helps things fall slowly?

58 ARI 58

I wish our *tomato* could fall
slowly. Then it wouldn't splat.

Elinor turns to her friends, eyes bright with an idea.

59 ELINOR 59
Maybe it *can!* We just need to find
something we can use, to help it
catch the air!
(beat, determined)
We need more observations.

As she rallies her friends OS, we TRANSITION TO:

6. EXT. PARK - A 'SONG MOMENT'

Elinor leads her friends in a spontaneous song about things that 'catch the air' as they explore the immediate area, collecting small, natural items to test.

60 ELINOR / HAZEL / ARI (SING) 60

*Let's look low and high,
For things that we can try.
Look over here, and over there,
For things that catch the air,*

*Check on the ground, see all around
Look at what I found!*

*Let's look high and low,
For things that fall real slow
(MORE)*

ELINOR / HAZEL / ARI (SING) (CONT'D)
*Look over here, and over there,
For things that catch the air!*

(As they sing and explore, they collect a PINECONE, an OAK LEAF, a TWIG and a FEATHER.)

7. EXT. TOMATO DROP AREA - CONTINUOUS

They hurry back to the base of their ladder, with the items they've gathered.

61 ELINOR 61
We found some great things! Now,
let's see how they fall.

Ari flies up the ladder, and Elinor hands him the pinecone.
Ari drops it - it plummets quickly, straight down. <THUMP!>.

62 ELINOR / HAZEL / ARI (UNISON) 62
Fast!

Hazel puts the pinecone off to one side, deliberately.

63 HAZEL. 63
I'll start a 'fell fast' pile.

Next, Elinor hands Ari the big, flat oak leaf to drop. He releases it -

CLOSE - As it falls, the leaf edges visibly flutter.

64 ELINOR / HAZEL / ARI (OS) 64
Slowww!

65 ELINOR 65
See how it catches the air? That
goes in the 'fell slow' pile.

She places the leaf a short distance away from the pinecone.

Next, Ari drops the twig, which plummets quickly. <THUMP!>

66 ELINOR / HAZEL / ARI 66
Fast!

Hazel puts the twig with the pinecone. Ari drops the feather.

CLOSE - the feather falls slowly, its downy edges fluttering.

67 ELINOR / HAZEL / ARI (OS) (CONT'D) 67
Slowww!

Elinor puts the feather with the leaf in the 'slow' pile.

68 ELINOR 68
So we have two things that catch
the air and fall slowly.

(Ari glides down from the ladder to join the 'slow' pile.)

69 ARI 69
Three, if you count me.

70 ELINOR 70
(laugh) Well, let's see if these
can help our tomato catch the air!

Hazel hands Elinor the tape, and Elinor tapes the feather and leaf to the sides of the last tomato. (Vertically, so they won't 'catch the air' very well.)

71 HAZEL 71
And I'll get ready to catch the
tomato, just in case.

Hazel crouches, ready to catch. Elinor holds up the tomato.

72 ELINOR 72
Ready?

Hazel nods - Elinor lets go. It falls fast! Hazel catches it.

73 ARI 73
Whoa! It *still* fell fast. Why
didn't it catch the air?

74 ELINOR 74
Yeah! What is it about Ari, the
leaf and the feather, that lets
them catch the air?

Elinor takes the leaf and feather off the tomato, and holds them up. Hazel uses her trunk to feel the feather. Suddenly -

75 HAZEL 75
Ah... AH... AH-CHOO!!!

CUT TO Elinor, watching the leaf and feather float down in front of her. Suddenly, she has a brainstorm!

76 ELINOR 76
I've got it! It's their *shape* that
lets them catch the air!

She catches the leaf and feather, and holds them horizontally to show her friends.

[illegible]

Ari spreads his wings and leans over.

78 ELINOR 78
So... to help our tomato fall
slowly, we need to attach something
that will catch the air.

Suddenly, Hazel has a flash of an idea.

79	HAZEL	79
	I have an idea!!	

78 She runs off and returns immediately with the big, square, 78
silky SCARF she admired at the top of the show.

80 HAZEL. 80
This scarf! Look!!

Hazel throws the scarf up into the air and they watch as it "catches the air".

Ohhhhh!

ELINOR/ ARI

82 ELINOR 82
Good work! That should work
perfectly, Hazel!

83 ARI 83

All we have to do it attach it to
the tomato.

Just then -

84 FARMER BEAR (CALLS) 84
Five minutes left, Tomato Droppers!

85 ELINOR 85
I have an idea! Get the string!

Ari dives into his backpack and tosses them a roll of twine.

86 ELINOR (CONT'D) 86
We can attach the scarf to the
tomato, like a parachute!

At lightning speed, Hazel cuts lengths of string, and Ari and Elinor tie each string to a corner of the scarf. But when Hazel grabs the tape, all that's left is a nub.

87 HAZEL 87
Oh, no. We're out of tape! How can
we attach the tomato?

Elinor holds the loose strings of her parachute, stumped.
Suddenly, Ari brightens. He digs out his bagel, from earlier.

88 ARI 88
Bagel?

89 HAZEL (INCREDULOUS) 89
Ari, this is no time for a snack!

But Elinor seizes the bagel, inspired.

90 ELINOR 90
Oh, yes it is!

Elinor ties the four strings to the (half?) bagel, like a
horizontal tire swing. Then, she sits the tomato on the hole!

8. EXT. ANOTHER LADDER - CONTINUOUS

Farmer Bear watches while the young Beaver drops a POPSICLE-
STICK 'TOMATO CASE' - it breaks on impact. <SPLAT!>

91 FARMER BEAR 91
Aww. Good effort.

Ari frantically beckons.

92 ARI (PART O.S.) 92
Farmer Bear! We have one more try!

The Farmer hustles over to watch their last attempt. Elinor
climbs the ladder with their tomato parachute...

...while Ari and Hazel worry up a storm.

93 ARI (CONT'D) 93
Ohhh, I can't watch!

Ari covers his face like a vampire - but peeks anyway.

BACK ON Elinor, dangling the tomato by its parachute.

94 ELINOR 94
Here goes. 3, 2, 1... DROP!

She releases it - and the chute <POOFS> open! We FOLLOW the
tomato-chute as it floats down slowly, landing the tomato
safely on the grass, still nestled atop its bagel carrier.

95 ELINOR / HAZEL / ARI / LAMBS / BEAVER 95
 (wild cheers and 'it worked!')

96 FARMER BEAR 96
 Congratulations! And here comes Mr.
 Tomato, with your *tasty prize...*

ANGLE ON the 'tomato-head' mascot, bringing a box for them.

97 ARI (EXCITED) 97
 Ooh, let me guess! Is it... a
 pineapple?

REVEAL their prize - naturally, it's a box of TOMATOES!

98 ELINOR / HAZEL / ARI 98
 (laughes)

As they gather around Mr. Tomato and pose for a picture -

99 ELINOR / HAZEL / ARI (CONT'D) 99
 (like saying 'cheese')
 Tomatooooo!

<CAMERA FLASH!> - we FREEZE FRAME on the photo, and...

FADE OUT.