

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP. #110 "The Tomato Drop"

By: Karen Moonah

Elinor's Question: How do you make a tomato fall more slowly?

Logline: *When Elinor and friends enter a 'tomato drop' contest, they design a solution (a parachute) to help a tomato fall more slowly so that it doesn't splatter.*

ES1. Understand that the Earth is made up of a variety of natural materials. a. Explore and describe the characteristics of earth materials such as sand, rocks, soil, water, and air.

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 tomato parachute to help the tomato fall slowly, as the leaf does)

SEP 1. Defining problems (engineering) 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. e.) Design and build a solution to a simple problem. (engineering) (Elinor designs a parachute)

SEP 6. Designing solutions (engineering) d.) Use evidence to support a (theory or) solution to a problem. (Elinor observes the scarf falls slowly and surmises it might help the tomato also fall slowly)

OUTLINE: 14-DEC-2018
FIRST DRAFT: 17-JAN-2019
SECOND DRAFT: 8-FEB-2019

1. EXT. FARMER BEAR'S FARM - DAY

ESTABLISHING. It's a late summer day in Animal Town, and Farmer Bear is hosting a small 'Tomato Festival' to mark the end of the tomato harvest. Her farm is decorated for the occasion. TOWNSPEOPLE circulate, and festive <MUSIC> plays OS.

In A FEW QUICK CUTS we establish the theme...

- FOOD TABLE - MRS. GORILLA dumps tomatoes into her giant stewpot and attacks them with a masher, to make sauce.

- RING TOSS - SALLY BEAVER throws small hoops, trying to land one around the 'target' tomato. Finally, she rings it!

1 SALLY 1
Yes!

- BARN - FARMER BEAR judges TOMATO ARTWORK, displayed on the side of her BARN. Smiling, she sticks a RIBBON on one.

2 FARMER BEAR 2
Beautiful! First place!

ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE (all with PACKS/SATCHEL) are walking through. Olive wears a SILKY RED SCARF tied around her neck.

3 ARI 3
Ahh, Farmer Bear's Tomato Festival.
My favorite summer tradition.

4 ELINOR 4
Me too! Tomato food, tomato games -

5 OLIVE 5
- and tomato accessories! See how
my scarf is red like a tomato?

Olive playfully 'fluffs' one end of her red scarf so that it falls slowly through the air.

Just then, Farmer Bear cups her hands and bellows:

6 FARMER BEAR (BELLOWS) 6
Attention please! Anyone who wants
to enter the Tomato Drop Contest,
follow me to the contest area now!

CUT TO RANGER RABBIT, as she waves to the kids.

7 RANGER RABBIT 7
Good luck, kids!

8	ELINOR (EXCITED)	8	*
	Thanks, Mom!		*
	(to her friends)		*
	Come on, let's go!		

They head off, following Farmer Bear to - *

2. EXT. 'TOMATO DROP' CONTEST AREA - CONTINUOUS *

Ari, Olive and Elinor join a group of kids at the contest
area. (A set of LAMB TRIPLETS, and Sally Beaver.)

9 LAMBS /SALLY 9
(excited walla)

There is a LADDER in the middle of a dirt patch, and near it, a basket of RIPE TOMATOES. FARMER BEAR <WHISTLES> for attention, and the group quiets.

10	FARMER BEAR	10	
	Welcome to the Tomato Drop! The		*
	first <u>two</u> teams who can drop a		*
	tomato from the top of this ladder		*
	<i>without</i> splattering it, will win a		*
	<i>prize.</i>		

Elinor, Olive and Ari exchange excited looks. *

11 ELINOR 11
Oooh, a PRIZE!

Farmer Bear indicates the basket of tomatoes. *

12 FARMER BEAR 12

Each team gets three tomatoes, and
you can build anything you like, to
try to keep them from splattering.
Did everyone bring supplies? *

The gathered kids all hold up their bulging backpacks. *

13 LAMBS / SALLY / ELINOR / ARI / OLIVE 13 *
 (ad lib nodding and agreement) *

Farmer Bear nods. She takes out an AIR HORN. *

14	FARMER BEAR	14	
	Great! Then let's get this contest		*
	started. Are you ready?		*

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

15 FARMER BEAR (CONT'D) 15
Set? ...GOOO-MATO! *

<HONNNNK!> She holds onto her straw hat as the kids stampede
past, each team headed to grab their three tomatoes! *

3. EXT. DROP LADDER - CONTINUOUS

Elinor, Ari and Olive run with their tomatoes to a grassy
area near the ladder, and sling off their backpacks/satchel. *

16 ARI 16
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.

17 ARI (V.O.) 17
...and tie 'em around the tomato to
cushion it when it drops!

CU ON: The bread rips and crumbles..

18 ELINOR 18
Bread might be too crumbly, Ari.

19 ARI 19
Eh, you're right.
(brightens)
How 'bout a donut? *

Undaunted, he pulls out a DONUT. *

20 OLIVE (DIPLOMATIC) 20
Let's call that Plan B. *

21 ELINOR 21
I have an idea, too...

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

22 ELINOR (CONT'D) 22
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.

23 ELINOR (CONT'D) 23
 ...and tape them to the outside of
 this box. Then we can put the
 tomato inside...

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

24	OLIVE	24	*
	Oh! So when we drop the tomato,		
	it'll <i>bounce</i> instead of splatting		*
	on the ground?		*

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

25 ELINOR 25
Hopefully!

26	ARI	26	
	Okay, 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.

27 ELINOR (CALLS) 27
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.

28 FARMER BEAR 28
That's one springy box! Ready when
you are.

With Olive 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 Olive scramble to catch it.

29 OLIVE 29 *

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

Finally, Ari seizes it.

30	ARI	30	
	<BOING> Gotcha!		
	Farmer Bear and the girls hurry over.		
31	FARMER BEAR	31	
	Let's see what'cha got!		
	CLOSE ON the box as Ari opens it. REVEAL... a box full of splattered tomato.		
32	ELINOR	32	
	(huff) Tomato sauce. I think it bounced around too much.		
	Farmer Bear smiles sympathetically.		
33	FARMER BEAR	33	
	Well, don't give up. You still have two more tomatoes!		
34	LAMB #1 (PART OS)	34	
	Farmer Bear? We're ready to try!		
	CUT TO: One of the THREE LAMBS is holding a HUGE BALL OF WOOL.		*
			*
35	OLIVE (PART OS)	35	*
	Oh look, they're using their <u>wool</u> to keep the tomato from squishing!		*
	Farmer Bear writes on her clipboard, while one of the lambs climbs the ladder.		*
			*
36	LAMB #1	36	
	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!		
37	LAMBS / SALLY / OLIVE / ARI / ELINOR	37	*
	(cheers)		*
38	FARMER BEAR	38	
	Nicely done! Our first winners!		*
	We'll do prizes at the end.		*
	BACK ON Elinor, Olive and Ari, watching.		*
39	OLIVE	39	*
	Now there's only one prize left.		*
40	ARI	40	
	If only we had some wool!		*

41	ELINOR	41	*
	We don't have to do <i>exactly</i> the		*
	same thing. There must be more than		*
	<i>one</i> way to drop a tomato.		*

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

SCIENCE CU: Elinor notices the fluff floating by.

Ohhh!

ELINOR (CONT'D) 42

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

43	ELINOR (CONT'D)	43
	Dandelion fluff is nice and soft,	*
	just like the wool!(gasp) What if	*
	we use THIS to cushion the tomato?	*

THOUGHT BUBBLE: We see Elinor's plan, a tomato with dandelion
fluff gathered around it.

44	OLIVE	44	*
	Okay! But we'll need a lot of it.		*

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

ARI

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 Olive tucks the tomato inside it. *

46 ELINOR 46
Oh, the fluff is getting away!

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47             OLIVE
47             Nothing a little tape can't fix.
47             *

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

48 ELINOR 48 *

All done!

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

49	ARI	49	
	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.			
50	ARI (CONT'D)	50	
	This time we've got the right stuff! Or should I say, the right <i>fluff</i> ?		*
	Elinor laughs, but Olive shakes her head at his groaner joke.		*
51	ELINOR / OLIVE	51	*
	(laugh) /(good-natured groan)		*
Ari drops the fluff-covered tomato from the top of the ladder. But to their dismay - <SPLAT!>			
52	ELINOR	52	
	Aww! It smooshed again! I guess we didn't use enough fluff.		*
	Farmer Bear gives them an upbeat smile.		*
53	FARMER BEAR (ENCOURAGING)	53	*
	See, you learn something, even when they do 'smoosh.' Keep trying!		*
	Farmer Bear EXITS, jotting on her clipboard. Ari looks down at his friends, worried.		*
54	ARI	54	
	Keep trying, sure - but we only have one tomato left!		*
	Elinor picks up their last tomato, nodding.		*
55	ELINOR	55	*
	So we can't waste it. We'll have to plan this <i>really</i> well...		*
	Ari flies back down to join them. As he lands, a gust of air from his wings causes a fallen OAK LEAF to blow into the air. Elinor watches as the leaf <i>falls slowly</i> to the ground, right in front of her.		*
56	ELINOR (INTRIGUED) (CONT'D)	56	*
	Whoa! Look at that leaf!		*

57 OLIVE 57 *

What about it? *

Elinor picks it up, to examine it. *

58 ELINOR 58 *

It fell really slowly! *

(she holds it up again) *

Look, I'll show you. *

Elinor holds the leaf up high, then releases it again, so her friends can watch how it falls. *

SCIENCE C.U. ON the leaf. As it falls slowly through the air, the lobes of the leaf flutter. (In animation, we see little wiggly 'air lines' catch on the bottom of the leaf.) *

59 OLIVE 59 *

That IS slow. *

Elinor picks up the leaf again. She holds their last tomato in one hand, the leaf in the other. *

60 ELINOR 60 *

A leaf falls *slowly*, but a tomato falls *fast*. That's SOO interesting! *

61 ARI 61 *

Too bad it isn't the other way around. If our *tomato* fell slowly, maybe it wouldn't splat. *

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

62 ELINOR 62 *

Yes! I wonder if there's a way to help our tomato fall slowly too? *

(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 'fall slowly' as they explore the immediate area, collecting various items to test. *

63 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI (SING) 63 *

Look high, look low, *

For things that might fall slow *

So we can figure out a way *

to save our tomato *

Olive frowns at hearing the accent on the wrong syl-LA-ble. *

64 OLIVE (SPOKEN) 64 *
Tuh-may-TOE? *

65 ARI (SPOKEN) 65 *
Just go with it, Olive. *

66 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI (SING) 66 *
We'll hold 'em up *
then let 'em go *
Until we try *
We'll never know *
Look high and low *
For things that might fall slow *
So we can figure out a way *
to save our tomato *

By the end of the song, they have collected a PINECONE, a STRAY PIECE OF PAPER (from the coloring contest) and a TWIG. *

7. EXT. TOMATO DROP AREA - CONTINUOUS

They hurry back to their working spot with their items. *

67 ELINOR 67 *
We found some great things! Now *
let's see how they fall. *

68 OLIVE 68 *
I'll put them in two piles - either *
'fell fast' or 'fell slow.' *

(She gestures to two spots on the ground.) *

69 ELINOR 69 *
Okay! First, the pinecone... *

Elinor hands Ari the pinecone, and he flies upward. (He hovers just overhead, for every test.) Ari holds out the pinecone - drops it - and it plummets quickly to the ground. *

70 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI (UNISON) 70 *
Fast! *

Olive puts the pinecone in the spot for the 'fast' pile. *

71 ELINOR 71 *
Next, the paper... *

Elinor bunny-jumps upward with the PAPER, to hand it to Ari. He holds it out horizontally, then releases it - *

SCIENCE C.U. -As the paper falls through the air, the edges flutter. We see 'air squiggles' under it, slowing it down.

ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI (OS)

SLOWWW!

Olive puts the leaf in the area for the 'slow' pile.

73 ELINOR 73
Now let's try the twig.

Elinor hops upward again, to hand Ari the twig. He drops this - it plummets quickly. <THUMP!>

74 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI 74

Fast!

Olive scoops up the twig to put it with the pinecone, and as she bends, her scarf dangles. This gives her an idea! She unties her scarf...

75 OLIVE 75
Let's drop my scarf, too!

She hands this to Elinor, who jumps it up to Ari. He holds her scarf out horizontally, then releases it.

SCIENCE C.U. - the scarf drops very slowly, billowing as it 'catches air' on the way down. (With air squiggles under it.)

76 OLIVE / ARI (OS) 76

 Slowww!

77 ELINOR 77
Very slow! It looks like it's
'catching the air' as it falls.

Olive puts the scarf in the 'slow' pile. Ari flies back down to join them as they look at the results of their tests.

HOLD ON the side-by-side fast and slow piles.

78 ARI 78

So we have two things that fell
quickly the pine cone and the twig -
and two that fell *slowly*.

79 OLIVE 79
The paper and my scarf which was
the slowest of all!

BACK TO WIDE, as Elinor picks up Olive's silky scarf in one hand, and their last tomato in the other.

80 ELINOR (THOUGHTFUL) 80 *
I wonder what would happen if we *
attached your slow-falling *scarf* to *
our *tomato*. *

81 OLIVE 81 *
Maybe the tomato would fall more *
slowly too? But *how* can we - *

But Olive is interrupted by an OS <SFX: CROWD MURMUR OF *
SURPRISE AND DELIGHT> *

CUT TO the SMALL CROWD of spectators. (Including Ranger *
Rabbit.) They're pointing and reacting upwards - *

82 RANGER RABBIT (AMUSED) 82 *
Look! It's Mr. Tomato! *

LOW ANGLE on a TOMATO-HEADED FESTIVAL MASCOT, ('MR. TOMATO') *
floating down towards the tomato patch on a big PARACHUTE. *

83 ARI (PART OS) 83 *
On a parachute! Wow, he didn't do *
that last year. *

Farmer Bear smiles at the kids. *

84 FARMER BEAR (TO ARI) 84 *
He's coming to hand out the prizes! *
And there's only one prize left to *
win, so... *

85 OLIVE 85 *
So, we'd better hurry! Think fast, *
guys. How do we put these together? *

But Elinor is still watching 'Mr. Tomato' as he lands gently *
in the tomato patch. His chute and ropes settle behind him. *

86 ELINOR (INSPIRED) 86 *
I've got it! Olive, we can use your *
scarf as a parachute! *

87 ARI 87 *
Yes!! I've got string... *

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

At lightning speed, Olive cuts FOUR LENGTHS OF STRING, and *
Ari and Elinor tie each string to a corner of the scarf. *

88 OLIVE 88 *
Now we just tape the strings to - *

But when Olive grabs the tape, all that's left is a nub. *

89 OLIVE (CONT'D) 89 *
Oh, no. We're out of tape! What do *
we use? *

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

90 ARI 90 *
My donut! *

91 OLIVE (INCREDULOUS) 91 *
Ari, this is no time for a snack!

But Elinor seizes the donut, inspired. *

92 ELINOR 92
Oh, yes it is!

Elinor ties the four strings to the donut, like a horizontal *
tire swing. Then, she sits the tomato on the donut hole! *

8. EXT. DROP LADDER - CONTINUOUS *

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

93 FARMER BEAR 93
Aww. Good effort.

Ari frantically beckons.

94 ARI (PART O.S.) 94
Farmer Bear! We have one more try!

The Farmer hustles over to watch their last attempt. The *
small crowd watches excitedly too. *

Elinor climbs the ladder with their tomato parachute...

...while Ari and Olive worry up a storm. *

95 ARI (CONT'D) 95
Ohhh, I can't watch!

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

BACK ON Elinor, dangling the tomato by its parachute. *

(QUICK CUTS to the anticipation on the faces of Ari and *
Olive, Ranger Rabbit, and Farmer Bear with her clipboard...) *

96 ELINOR (PART OS) 96 *
Three... two... one... DROP! *

She releases it - the tomato-chute <POOFS> open! We FOLLOW *
the chute as it floats down slowly, landing the tomato safely *
on the grass, bouncing slightly on its donut landing pad. *

97 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI / LAMBS / SALLY /97 *
RANGER RABBIT / FARMER BEAR *
(ad lib cheers) *

98 FARMER BEAR 98 *
Hooray! Another winning team! *
(beckoning) *
Winners, follow me! It's time to *
award your *tasty prizes*... *

The kids follow Farmer Bear over to where Mr. Tomato is *
presiding over two PRIZE BOXES on a table. *

99 ARI (EXCITED) 99 *
Tasty? Ooh, let me guess what it *
is. Umm... a pineapple? *

Elinor lifts the prize box lid to REVEAL... TOMATOES! *

100 ELINOR / OLIVE 100 *
(laughs) / Guess again! *

As Farmer Bear pulls out a camera to snap a photo of the *
winners, the kids and Mr. Tomato all pose with their prizes. *

101 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI / LAMBS 101 *
(like saying 'cheese') *
Tomatooooo! *

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

FADE OUT.