

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW134 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE - THE ATLAS MOTH

Written by

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FOLLOWS: Ep. 168 A MOTH MYSTERY

CURRICULUM: Elinor, Olive and Mz. Mole take a close look at a few interesting moths of the world, including the world's largest moth - the atlas moth - a moth so big it is often mistaken for a bird!

LS8. Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be the same or different

FIRST DRAFT: March 23, 2020

Elinor, Ari and Mz. Mole are walking through the flower garden. A hummingbird clearwing moth flies past Elinor, Olive and Mz. Mole and over to a bunch of flowers. There is an audible <SFX: Hum> as it passes by.

Angle On - the moth hovers <SFX: Hum> over the flowers just like a hummingbird as it dips its proboscis to drink nectar.

Mz. Mole takes out her storybook and opens the front cover. CLOSE ON the storybook which shows three moths side by side - a luna moth (green), a rosy maple moth (pink and yellow), and an Io moth (yellow with two large eye spots).

The storybook comes to life in a popup book style of animation. The moths each flap their wings a bit so we see they're alive.

The page turns to reveal a moth that looks just like a brown/dead leaf on a pile of dead brown leaves.

8 ARI (V.O.) 8
What do you mean, Mz. Mole? That's
just a pile of leaves.

Suddenly, one of the "leaves" begins to flap its wings, then flies away.

9 ELINOR (V.O.) 9
What?! That leaf was a moth!

10 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 10
And how about this one?

CLOSE ON a tree trunk and a yellow comet moth with long "tails" flies in and lands on the tree.

11 ELINOR (V.O.) 11
Ooh, pretty! Is that a butterfly?

12 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 12
Good question. It's actually a moth. Let's compare.

The page turns and reveals a comparison of the comet moth and a yellow swallowtail butterfly.

13 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 13
Moths usually rest with their wings open, while butterflies usually rest with their wings closed together.

The page turns and we see a close up of the swallowtail butterfly's face which shows thin antennae. Mz. Mole's finger tip comes into frame to point at the antennae.

14 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 14
And butterflies have thin antennae...

A popup style of animation replaces the swallowtail butterfly with the comet moth, so we see a close up of the comet moth's face which has feathery antennae. Mz. Mole's finger tip comes into frame to point at the antennae.

15 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 15
While a moth's antennae are feathery.

The page turns to reveal a CLOSE UP of a cluster of atlas moth eggs (pink) on a leaf.

16 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 16
It's amazing to think these winged beauties start life in a tiny egg.

One hatches and a tiny bristly pale-green caterpillar emerges and immediately begins eating the leaf as it crawls.

17 ARI (V.O.) 17
Look, it's hatching! (giggling)
Must be hungry.

A flipbook style of animation, like timelapse, shows the caterpillar grow and grow until it is much bigger.

18	MZ. MOLE (V.O.)	18
	Yes. This caterpillar will eat and grow and eat and grow until one day...	

The flipbook animation shows a brown cocoon in place of the caterpillar. The cocoon is hanging from a twig.

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19                                MZ. MOLE (V.O.)                                19
                                The caterpillar wraps itself in a
                                cocoon and begins its secret
                                transformation to become...

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It hatches. An adult atlas moth climbs out of the cocoon and opens its large beautiful wings.

20 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 20
A moth. This is an atlas moth.

Ms. Mole's hand comes into frame and the atlas moth climbs onto it. The moth is so large that it's wingspan is wider than the hand.

21 ELINOR (V.O.) 21
Whoah, that's huge.

The moth flaps its wings and flies away. We watch it fly through the sky.

22 MZ. MOLE (V.O.) 22
The atlas moth is so big. People
sometimes think it's a bird.

3. EXT. FLOWER GARDEN -- SUMMER DAY

Back in the flower garden, Elinor, Ari and Mz. Mole watch the hummingbird moth drink from the flowers.

23 ELINOR 23
Moths can be as big as birds and as
pretty as butterflies.

END