

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 135 Follow That Roly Poly
By Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: Where can we explore without going very far?
OR Where does a Rollie Pollie live?

Logline: The Exploring Club wants to explore some place really cool, and they end up exploring under a log.

Curriculum Goals: LS5. Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs (Elinor and her friends realize the Rollie Pollie and the other animals depend on the ecosystem under the log to survive).

ES3. Understand that things people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them, but they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things: (Elinor and her friend learn that they disturbed the ecosystem under the log when they moved it)

ND4. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Flows, Cycles, and Conservation'): Appreciate the way that elements in the natural world change, interact and are re-used, and how we can organize our designed world to better fit and care for the environment. (Elinor and her friends realize they should put the log back into place to protect animals in Log Town)

SEP5. Using mathematics and computational thinking

a. Using counting and numbers to describe and compare quantitative attributes of objects

b. Sort and categorize observable phenomena based on attributes

c. Use mathematical language and vocabulary to describe attributes (Elinor and her friends count and classify the bug they find).

CROSS-CUTTING CONCEPT: Scale and proportion. (Elinor and her friends observe how things look from a Rollie Pollie's perspective).

Mains: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Tito. **Secondary:** Sally

Locations: Explorer's Clubhouse, Forest, under the log

Props: magnifying glass, Nature Book, Rollie Pollie, Assorted worms, centipedes, ants and spiders that live under the log.

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EXT./INT. EXPLORERS' CLUBHOUSE - DAY

ELINOR calls from inside the Clubhouse.

1	ELINOR	1
	Welcome Explorers Olive, Ari, Sally, and Tito.	

PUSH IN Through the window.

2	ELINOR (CONT'D)	2
	All right Explorers, it's time for the Explorers' pledge.	

ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI, SALLY and TITO start reciting their pledge with hand-gestures.

3	ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI, TITO	3
	An Explorer is brave, an Explorer is kind...	
	(We PUSH IN through the window...)	
	An Explorer is CURIOUS, who knows what we'll find!	

The kids all cheer <WHOO-HOO> then...

4	TITO	4
	Ooooh, I can't wait to go on an Explorer adventure - I'll be brave and kind and...	
	(a little hesitantly)	
	Uuhhmm. What does curious mean?	

5	ELINOR	5
	Good question, Tito. Curious means you really want to find out about new things.	

6	OLIVE	6
	Yep, we explorers are verrrrrrry curious, so we ask lots of questions.	

7	TITO	7
	Oooh...	
	(he thinks)	
	What kind of questions?	

8	ARI	8
	Any kind of question - like the one you just asked.	

9 TITO 9
 Oh.
 (he thinks, then, GIGGLES)
 Yay me!

Olive and Ari high-five Tito <SFX: WAY TO GO WALLA>. NOTE:
 The actor playing TITO has a lovely contagious laugh, feel
 free to weave it in at the Voice Record.

10 ELINOR 10
 Okay, Explorers, now that we've
 said our pledge it's time for the
 best part of the Club - EXPLORING!!
 Follow me!

The kids follow Elinor out the door.

EXT. EXPLORERS CLUBHOUSE - DAY

11 TITO 11
 (excitedly)
 This is soo exciting!! Where are we
 going to explore today?

12 ELINOR 12
 Hmm, well, that depends on what we
 want to see.

13 OLIVE 13
 I'd like to see some interesting
 new plants.

14 ARI 14
 I want to see cool new animals,
 like lizards or bugs.

15 SALLY 15
 I just want to find some sticks.
 (A pause as the others
 look at her questioning.)
 What can I say? I love sticks.

16 ELINOR 16
 Well, I want to be like the GREAT
 explorers, exploring the sea.
 (THOUGHT BUBBLE: we see
 Elinor at the front of a
 ship as she looks out
 towards the sea)
 Or a jungle
 (MORE)

ELINOR (CONT'D)
 (THOUGHT BUBBLE: We see
 her trekking through a
 jungle!)
 Or even a new city!!

THOUGHT BUBBLE: We see the silhouette of tall buildings.

17	ARI	17
	Uhh, Elinor. I don't think we can go THAT far.	

18	OLIVE	18	*
	My Mom said we're supposed to stay around the woods near the Clubhouse.		

19	TITO	19
	Yeah, and I'm supposed to be home for lunch.	

Elinor's THOUGHT BUBBLE bursts.

20	ELINOR	20	*
	(a little disappointed) <SIGH> You're right... (brightening) But we can still explore - come on.		

The Explorers follow Elinor into the woods.

21	ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI, TITO	21
	(sing-song) Let's go exploring, exploring, exploring...	

EXT. FOREST GLADE (NEAR THE CLUBHOUSE) - DAY

CLOSE ON: Ari.

22	ARI	22
	(sing-song) Let's go exploring - whoops!	

At that moment Ari accidentally stomps on the end of a stick,
 which has a little Roly Poly crawling on the other end.

ANGLE ON: The force of Ari's stomp sends the Roly Poly flying
 through the air.

ECU/SLO MO maybe we can see the little creature roll up into
 a ball, but the kids don't notice yet. Now a ball, the Roly
 Poly gently bonks Ari on the head before rolling to the
 ground.

23 ARI (CONT'D) 23
Huh? Something hit me!

Ari looks down as Olive, Tito and Sally gather around. Elinor keeps marching.

24 OLIVE 24
I saw it! I think it was that
little rock.

Olive points.

25 ARI 25
 Yep that must be it.

ANGLE ON: Elinor, still marching along, realizes no one is following her anymore.

26 ELINOR 26
Where'd everybody go?
 (turning)
What are you all looking at?

A rock.

OLIVE

28 ELINOR 28
(puzzled)
A rock? But Explorers, we have so
much more to explore - new plants,
new animals, a jungle, the sea, a
new city... and sticks.

29 ARI 29
Yeah, but this is a REALLY COOL
rock, Elinor, look.

Elinor hurries back to see the rock. **SCIENCE ECU** - Ari has the rolled up Roly Poly in the palm of his hand.

30

ELINOR

30

Ooooooh, you're right, Ari. I've
seen a rock like this one
before.

(pointing to the rock)

It's tiny and round and has lots of
lines on it.

At that moment the Roly Poly just begins to uncurl itself.

31 ARI 31
Wait a minute - is this rock
MOVING?

WIDEN: The kids consider this exciting development.

32 SALLY 32 *
I thought rocks don't move, do
they?

33 ELINOR 33
We need MORE observations.

Olive takes the magnifying glass out of her satchel and holds
it up.

MAGNIFYING POV: The Roly Poly is partly rolled up on its back *
and we can see its legs peeking out and wiggling. NOTE: *
Although it looks less like a rock now, I think we can keep
the conceit until line 40.

34 ELINOR (CONT'D) 34
<GASP!> It has LEGS!

Tito seems a bit nervous. *

35 TITO 35 *
(nervously) *
A rock with legs? I'm scared. *

36 OLIVE 36 *
You don't have to worry, Tito. *
Explorers are brave, remember? *

Olive puts her arm around Tito. He perks up. *

37 TITO 37 *
(brightening) *
Oh yeah. *

The Roly Poly uncurls completely. *

38 ELINOR 38 *
You know what, this isn't a rock at *
all. It looks like some kind of *
bug. *

39 ARI 39 *
Cooooool! *

Olive leans in close to count the legs.

40 OLIVE 40 *
It has one, two three four five six *
SEVEN pairs of legs. *

Elinor is entranced by the Roly Poly which has now flipped *
over and is crawling around on Ari's hand. *

41	ELINOR	41	*
	Wow. Look, it's crawling.		*

42 OLIVE 42

Hmmmm. Let me check my Nature Book.
 (she hands the magnifying
 glass to Elinor then
 takes out her Nature Book
 and leafs through)

OK, so... Hmm Forest Animals.... *

ANGLE ON: a drawing of a bunch of different animals that live under a log (who we will meet later): millipede, slug, worm, ant, spider, beetle and a Roly Poly. Olive points to it.

43 OLIVE (CONT'D) 43
Oh! I think we found a Roly Poly!
Listen to this. Roly Polys, or Pill
Bugs, actually aren't bugs at all.
They're the same kind of animal as
crabs or lobsters.

44 ELINOR 44
Really? That is sooo interesting. *

45 OLIVE 45
And it says here that Roly Polys
roll up into a ball to protect
themselves when they're feeling
nervous.

*

All the kids <SFX: 0000H WALLA>. Meanwhile Ari is starting to squirm. *

46	ARI	46
	(giggling)	
	YIKES! I don't think the Roly Poly	*
	is nervous anymore - Now it's	*
	just... TICKLY!	*

ANGLE ON: The Roly Poly has crawled up Ari's arm and is walking around on his wing (not near his face). Ari can't help wiggle and giggle, <SFX: WIGGLE, GIGGLE WALLA> as the little creature crawls back down his arm. Ari sets it gently on the ground.

47 ARI (CONT'D) 47
Whew! There ya go, little Roly
Poly.

The Roly Poly starts trundling along with determination.

48 TITO 48
Where's it going now?

49	ELINOR	49	
	Let's find out - follow that Roly Poly!		

EXT. FOREST GLADE - WIDE

As they follow, Elinor has to stop and start a couple of times to match the Roly Poly's slower pace, causing a series of gentle pile-ups with her friends <SF: OOOOF, WHOOPS, GIGGLE>.

50	ARI	50	
	The Roly Poly doesn't go very fast.		*

51	OLIVE	51	
	That's because it's so small. And it seems to be checking things out.		*

ANGLE ON: The Roly Poly has stopped and is exploring an interesting rock covered in lichen with it's antennae.

52	ELINOR	52	
	Oooh, you're right Olive. I think it's exploring.		*

53	TITO	53	
	Just like us!		*

54	OLIVE	54	
	I wonder what things look like to a little Roly Poly.		

55	ELINOR	55	
	Let's find out. Let's be Roly Polies, and observe things from the ground, just like a Roly Poly does.		*
			*
			*

Elinor and the others get down low.

LOW DOWN POV OF THE FOREST FLOOR: A little puddle, a patch of grass, a rock etc, look huge. Have fun designers! <SFX: WHOOOA WALLA>

56	SALLY	56	
	That puddle looks like an ocean.		

57	TITO	57	
	The grass looks like a jungle from down here.		*

58	ARI	58	
	Wow! This rock looks just like a MOUNTAIN! Climb it, Roly Poly, all the way to the TOP!		
	The Roly Poly keeps moving over the rock, stopping and touching things with its antennae.		*
59	OLIVE	59	
	Yep, it's exploring for sure. You go, Roly Poly.		
60	ELINOR	60	
	I know! Let's make this Roly Poly a member of the Exploring Club.		*
61	OLIVE	61	
	Great idea, Elinor, only... Roly Polys don't talk, so it can't say the Exploring Pledge.		* *
62	ELINOR	62	
	Then let's do the Explorers Pledge for him. Ready?		
	The Explorers stand up and start the pledge.		
63	ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI, TITO	63	
	An Explore is brave, an Explorer is kind! An Explore is curious, who knows what we'll find!		*
64	ARI	64	
	Welcome to the Club, Roly Pol-uh- oh...		*
	ANGLE ON: The ground, no Roly Poly.		
65	OLIVE	65	
	Where'd the Roly Poly go?		
	The kids look around in panic for a beat, then...		
66	ELINOR	66	
	There it is!!		
	ANGLE ON: the Roly Poly is burrowing in the earth beside a good-sized partially rotten log, suddenly it disappears.		
67	TITO	67	
	<gasp!> It's gone!		

68 OLIVE 68
It went under the log. Let's go see
it come out the other side.

The kids gather around the far side of the log waiting for
the Roly Poly to emerge.

69 ELINOR 69
Come on Explorer Roly Poly, we're
waiting for you so we can keep
EXPLORING!

A beat, then.

70 ARI 70
Roly Poly....?

71 TITO 71
It's not coming out.

72 OLIVE 72
Maybe it's stuck under there.

Olive rolls the log over and the kids discover...

EXT. LOG TOWN - DAY

ANGLE ON: The kids amazed face, gob-smacked with what they
see. <SFX: WOOOW!!!>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/rotting-log/>

73 ELINOR 73
Look at that! There are all kinds
of animals under this log!

74 ARI 74
What ARE all those things?

75 ELINOR 75
We definitely need MORE
observations!

Elinor still has the magnifying glass in her hand and the
kids crouch down low to observe:

ECU/MAGNIFYING GLASS POV - The kids take time to watch the
bugs and creatures moving around.

76 ARI 76
Whoa! There are worms and slugs and
beetles... and more roly polies.

*
*

A millipede crawls by.

*

77 ELINOR 77
Look at all the legs on this one.

*

*

78 OLIVE 78
(checking her book)
That's a millipede.

*

*

*

The kids <SFX: OOH and AWW>.

*

79 TITO 79
They're all munching on that old
log. It's like their lunch room.

*

*

80 SALLY 80
And these ants are walking over a
puddle on a stick.
(realizing)
I found STICKS!

*

*

Sally gathers up some sticks she's found (NOT the one the
ants are using) and makes the ant bridge wider to help the
ants. DESIGN NOTE: The puddle the ants are crossing is VERY
small - the size of a hand.

*

*

81 OLIVE 81
Those little plants must look just
like trees to them.

*

*

82 ARI 82
Maybe this is their town. Just like
we live in Animal Town.

*

*

83 ELINOR 83
A tiny town, under the log.

*

*

84 ARI 84
We'll call it Log Town!

*

*

85 ELINOR 85
Wow, it's so much fun to explore.

*

*

As the kids sing we examine Log Town and see the things they
mention (sea, cave, forest etc.) which are really just small
puddles, nooks and ferns but seen from a Roly Poly
perspective.

86 ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE 86
Explore, Explore, just walk out the
door!
The whole world is there, what are
you waiting for?
(MORE)

ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE (CONT'D)

Explore, explore, then explore some
more,
You don't know what you'll find
until you explore.

ELINOR: Who knows where you'll go,
and what you will see,
OLIVE: It could be a forest, a cave
or the sea,
ARI: You might climb a mountain, or
wade through a bog
ELINOR: Or you might find a town
under a rock or a log.

ALL: Explore, Explore, just walk
out the door!
The whole world is there, what are
you waiting for?
Explore, explore, then explore some
more,
You don't know what you'll find
until you explore.

END SONG - As the song ends we can see the various animals
are seeking shelter under sticks and leaves, or burrowing
into the ground.

87	ARI	87	
	Hey! Where are they going?		*
88	OLIVE	88	
	They're all hiding. Look, the Roly		*
	Podies are all rolled up.		*
89	TITO	89	
	They must be nervous.		
90	ARI	90	
	Of what?		
91	OLIVE	91	
	Of US! We probably look huge to them, Ari.		
	Olive crouches low. Her POV reveals this is true.		
92	ARI	92	
	Oh, no! Let's not make them nervous.		
93	ELINOR	93	
	You're right. Let's put the roof back on Log Town.		*

They start to roll the log back into place.

94 SALLY 94
Wait!

Sally uses her stick to gently move the little creatures into safe spots (small holes, under rocks, covered by a piece of wood).

95 TITO 95
Sweet. Now they won't be squished
by accident when we roll the log
back. *

96 ELINOR 96
That was a really nice thing to do,
Sally. *

The kids roll the log carefully back into place. ANGLE ON:
the little Roly Poly burrows happily underneath.

97 ARI 97
Bye, bye Roly Poly, thanks for
showing us around Log Town. *

In ECU we can see the creatures under the log, crawling
around safe and sound. *

EXT. FOREST GLADE (NEAR THE CLUBHOUSE) - DAY *

BACK ON: The kids walk back to the clubhouse after a long
day of exploring. *

98 ELINOR 98
Wow, what a great day to go
exploring.

99 OLIVE 99
I got to see new plants. *

100 ARI 100
I got to meet a new animal, the
Roly Poly, and we got to visit a
whole new town under a log. *

101 TITO 101
It was a real adventure! *

102 SALLY 102
And I found some sticks!

Sally proudly holds up some sticks. She <SFX: GIGGLES> and
everyone joins her. *

103	OLIVE	103	
	Everyone got to explore what they wanted.		
	(realizing)		
	Except you, Elinor. I'm sorry we didn't explore far away places like REAL explorers.		*
104	ELINOR	104	
	That's OK, Olive. You don't have to go far to discover new things. And we WERE real explorers..		*
			*
	Elinor points to Tito and to Sally.		*
105	ELINOR (CONT'D)	105	*
	Tito, you were BRAVE when we first saw the Roly Poly. And Sally, you were KIND when you made sure our Log Town friends were safe. But most important...		*
			*
			*
106	ARI	106	*
	We were ALL curious!		
107	TITO	107	
	Where are we going to explore tomorrow?		*
			*
108	ARI	108	
	Well, we could explore the mess in my room. Who KNOWS what we'll find hiding under there. Just sayin,		*
			*
			*
	Everybody <SFX LAUGHS>. WIDE SHOT of them continue on their way home through the forest, singing a reprise of the song chorus (ALT: singing the sing-song from line 21).		*
			*
109	ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE	109	*
	Explore, Explore, just walk out the door!		*
	The whole world is there, what are you waiting for?		*
			*
	The others as <SFX: CHEER WALLA> - fade out. THE END		*

SEGMENT 2.

*

1. EXT. FOREST - DAY

Señor Tapir sits on a tree root with his guitar. Nearby,
Elinor, Olive and Ari crouch low near the base of a tree to
stare down a hole in the ground. The hole is big enough for
Elinor to crawl down.

110	OLIVE	110	*
	(sticking her trunk slightly into		*
	the hole) Wow! Look at this hole.		*
	(echo voice)		*
	HELLOOOO!		*
111	ARI	111	*
	What do you think is down there?		*
112	ELINOR	112	*
	Maybe somebody lives there.		*
113	SEÑOR TAPIR	113	*
	Es posible. There's a whole lot		*
	going on underground. This reminds		*
	me of a man named Stephen Bishop		*
	who once explored a deep cave and		*
	made some amazing discoveries.		*

Señor Tapir starts strumming his guitar and singing. *

2. EXT. MAMMOTH CAVE, KENTUCKY - DAY

The scene dissolves to the entrance of Mammoth Cave. *

114	SEÑOR TAPIR	114	*
	(singing)		*
	In the middle of Kentucky, there's		*
	a hole in the ground		*
	Called Mammoth Cave, and it leads		*
	down		*
	To the biggest bunch of caves the		*
	world's ever seen.		*

Stephen Bishop (a mountain lion) enters the mouth of the
cave. He has black hair and a long mustache and is wearing a
chocolate-colored slouched hat, a green jacket and trousers.
He holds a flickering lantern as he enters a cave room filled
with stalactites and crystals on the cave walls. He then sits
on the cave floor with a large sheet of paper and draws a
branching map of Mammoth Cave. *

(MORE)

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

There once was a man who dared to
explore,
More of the cave than anyone
before,
He was the first to map the whole
entire thing.

*
*
*
*
*
*

Stephen Bishop crawls across a ladder over a dark chasm. He
climbs down a rope to a cave floor.

*
*

Stephen Bishop wanted to know,
How far Mammoth Cave would go,
So he went down underground,
And that is when he found
Surprises in the caves down below.

*
*
*
*
*

Stephen Bishop squeezes through narrow passages, carrying a
lantern with a rope coiled over his shoulder. He disappears
into darkness.

*
*
*

He explored by rope and lantern
light,
Through narrow spaces dark and
tight,
And left the world of sunlight far
behind.

*
*
*
*
*
*

He emerges from the darkness as his lantern light illuminates
a river in a cave. He shines his light closer to the water
and sees little white fish. An underwater view of the fish
shows that they have no eyes.

*
*
*
*

He discovered a river, and what a
surprise,
He found some fish that had no
eyes!
Splashing and swimming, completely
blind!

*
*
*
*
*
*

More scenes of Stephen Bishop crawling down narrow caves.

*

Stephen Bishop wanted to know,
How far Mammoth Cave would go,
So he went down underground
And that is when he found
Surprises in the caves down below.

*
*
*
*
*

3. EXT. FOREST - DAY

*

Señor Tapir finishes his song.

*

Ari looks into the hole, curiously.

*

115

ARI

115

I wonder how far THIS hole goes?
Hello?

*
*
*

As Ari turns away, we hear an echo of "hello?" that startles him. He smiles and everyone laughs.

*
*

THE END.

*