

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW138 Water You Doing?

by Kate Barris

Elinor's Question: Where did the pool of water go?

Logline: Elinor discovers that putting some rocks into a stream can affect where the water flows.

Curriculum Goals:

- SEP1. Asking questions
 - a. Demonstrate curiosity about the greater world outside of their local environment
 - b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena
 - c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation
 - d. Identify a problem that can be solved by the design of a new or improved object or tool (By asking questions, Elinor and her friends realize they have blocked the stream, and decide to make a small bridge instead).

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 fish needs water in order to survive).

ND1. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Patterns'): Understand that modes of life in the natural world and engineered solutions in the designed world have common patterns, and engineers often look to natural patterns for inspiration. (Elinor gets the idea for the bridge from the ants using the leaf to cross the puddle.)

ND5. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Cause and Effect'): Appreciate that events are connected to each other via cause and effect, and that similar links can be found in the natural and designed worlds. (Elinor and her friends learn that their actions have an effect on the stream, and on the fish)

FIRST DRAFT July 5, 2019

OPEN ON: An extreme close up of Elinor, focussing very hard on something.

ARI's face comes in beside hers.

Now we see that they're looking at A TRAIL OF ANTS walking across a LEAF to get over a PUDDLE.

Elinor points at one side of the puddle, and then to the other side.

The others nod and then get up.

Ari looks puzzled.

Elinor <GIGGLES>.

8 ELINOR 8

That if you're smart, you can
always find a way from here to
there. Even if there's something in
the way.

9 OLIVE 9
Hmmm. Like I said, ants are smart.
So, here should we explore next?

They look around. Elinor points in a direction.

10 ELINOR 10
Let's go this way. But, wait!
Let's play a game.

11 ARI 11
Sure! What kind of game?

Elinor sees a series of rocks, stumps and fallen logs ahead in the forest. (**NOTE:** All of them are quite low to the ground, so they aren't dangerous for the kids to walk on.)

12 ELINOR 12
An ANT game. We can be ants and
find ways to get from here to there
- without walking on the ground.

Ari gets a sneaky smile.

13 ARI 13
Easy-peasy.

He flaps his wings and lifts off the ground. Olive and Elinor <GIGGLE>.

14 ELINOR 14
(giggling)
Not that way, Ari. Flying doesn't
count.

Olive steps up on a fallen log and puts her arms out to balance.

15 OLIVE 15
You mean like walking on this log
to get from here to there, right
Elinor?

Elinor smiles as Olive wobbles along the log.

16 ELINOR 16
Right. Let's see how long we can go
without touching the ground, by
stepping on rocks or logs or tree
stumps.

17 ARI 17
The way the ants walked on the leaf
to cross over the puddle.

Elinor nods, then hops onto the fallen log, following Olive. Then Ari does the same. They <GIGGLE> and make <WOAH> sounds etc, as they try to maintain their balance.

When Olive gets to the end of the log, she looks around for what to walk on next. She spots a series of rocks and hops onto the first, then steps onto the next.

Elinor gets to the end of the log and spots a small tree stump, then another log.

Ari comes to the end of the log and looks both ways. He decides to follow Olive.

2. EXT. FISHY POOL - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor hops from the log onto a rock near a small, shallow stream. A little jut has created a kind of a cove where the water eddies, creating a little pool. As she tries not to lose her balance, she notices something.

ANGLE: A LITTLE FISH jumps out of the water and splashes back into it!

18	ELINOR	18
	Woah! Did you see that?	

Olive and Ari stop and almost lose their balance as they look over toward Elinor.

19	OLIVE	19
	See what?	

Elinor steps down off the rock and goes to the edge of the stream, As she peers into the water, the fish jumps again, making a <SPLASH>.

20	ELINOR	20
	There's a little fishy here.	

Olive jumps down off the log to join Elinor.

21	OLIVE	21
	Oooh! Let's see!	

Ari, still on the log, raises his arms in victory.

22	ARI	22
	Haha! I'm still off the ground. WINNER!!	

But Olive and Elinor aren't paying attention to him, they're intrigued with what they're looking at, so Ari jumps off the rock and joins them at the edge of the stream.

23 ELINOR 23
Look. The fishy's got its own
little swimming pool.

They peer into the water, and see the little fish, which is peering up at them, opening and closing its mouth.

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24             ARI                                     24
Hello little fishy!
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They wave at the fishy.

25 OLIVE 25
Nice to meet you.

26 ELINOR 26

Have a great day in your pool!

(she stands up and looks
around)

Now which way should we explore?

They look across the stream.

27 OLIVE 27

I wonder what's over on that side
of the stream?

28 ELINOR 28
There's only one way to find out.

Let's go!

ARI

OLIVE

But how will we get over there?
It's too far to jump.

Elinor points upstream.

31 ELINOR 31
I think it's narrower up there.
Maybe it'll be easier to cross.

They head upstream. Ari stops and calls back.

32 ARI 32

Bye little fishy! We'll come back
and tell you what we saw.

3. EXT. UPSTREAM NARROWS - MOMENTS LATER

They arrive at a **NARROWER** part of the stream.

33 ELINOR 33
This is a nice narrow spot. Maybe
we can get across.

Ari flaps his wings and lifts off the ground a bit.

34 ARI 34
Well I know *I* can.

Olive and Elinor <GIGGLE>.

35 ELINOR 35
 You can, but we can't fly. And it's
 too far to jump.

They look down at the water and see a LEAF being carried downstream by the current.

36 OLIVE 36

And the water's moving pretty fast.
Look at how that leaf is being
moved by the stream.

Ari gets a THOUGHT BUBBLE over his head of OLIVE POLE VAULTING OVER THE STREAM!

37 ARI 37

Have you ever seen anyone pole vault? It's where you use a long stick to help you jump over something. Maybe you could try that?

Olive looks at Ari with surprise as his THOUGHT BUBBLE POPS, and she opens her backpack.

38 OLIVE 38
 (giggle) I don't think so, Ari.

39 ELINOR 39
We need more ideas. What do you think Olive?

Olive gets out her notebook and pencil. She draws two lines for the stream, and an arrow showing the flow of the water.

40 OLIVE 40
Let's see. This is the stream. The
water is going this way.

She draws stick figures of the three of them on one side.

41 OLIVE (CONT'D) 41
And this is us on one side.

42 ELINOR 42
But we want to be on the other side.

Elinor and Ari look around. He's standing on a rock.

43 ELINOR (CONT'D) 43
What else have we got here?

44 ARI 44
Just rocks.

Elinor's face lights up.

45 ELINOR 45
Rocks! That's it!

46 ARI 46
What's it?

47 ELINOR 47
Remember the game we were playing, where we walked on things instead of on the ground? What if we put some big rocks in the water?

Olive draws two big rocks in the water, making a walkway.

48 OLIVE 48
Then we could walk on the rocks to get across.

49 ARI 49
Amazing! Let's do it!

The three of them gather around the rock Ari was on.

50 ELINOR 50
Ready?

51 OLIVE/ARI 51
Ready!

They push the rock, <EFFORT SOUNDS>, causing it to roll toward the stream. Then <PLUNK> it drops into the stream and rolls once, so it's touching the other bank.

52 OLIVE 52
Perfect! Now, just one more rock
like that, and we can walk across.

They get behind another big rock, and roll it toward the stream. <EFFORT SOUNDS>. It drops <PLUNK> into the water. One side of the rock is touching the other rock and the other side of the rock is touching the bank in front of them. So they've effectively created a walkway (and a dam).

They're delighted with their work and high five each other.

53 ELINOR 53
We did it! We built a rock walk.

54 ARI 54
Yay us!

55 OLIVE 55
Let's ealk across.

They hop across on the rocks and land on the other side.

56 ELINOR 56
Now we can explore this way.

They all start walking downstream on the other side.

As they leave, the camera moves to the spot where they put the rocks in the water. There's a little water coming between the two rocks, but a significant amount of water is being diverted by the rocks, and is spilling onto to the other bank of the stream. Another LEAF floats downstream toward the rocks, but instead of continuing toward the fishy's pool, it flows with the diverted water and lands on the other bank, where a puddle is forming.

TIME TRANSITION.

4. EXT. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREAM - LATER ON

Elinor, Ari and Olive are walking on the far side of the stream, retracing the route they took earlier.

57 ARI 57
Wow! That was fun.

58 OLIVE 58
We saw so many cool things.

59 ELINOR 59
I liked the dragonfly best.

60 OLIVE 60
Hmmm ... I liked the hummingbird.
What'd you like best Ari?

61 ARI 61
I liked ... everything! Let's go
tell our fishy friend all about it.

62 ELINOR 62
We can use our rock walk again to
get from here to there.

5. EXT. UPSTREAM NARROWS - MOMENTS LATER

The three arrive at their walkway, but as they get close to
it, we hear <SQUISH> and Elinor makes a face.

63 ELINOR 63
That's weird.

64 ARI 64
What is?

65 ELINOR 65
There's a big puddle here. I don't
remember stepping in a puddle when
we came across before.

66 OLIVE 66
Maybe we just stepped around it.

67 ELINOR 67
Maybe.

68 ARI 68
Come on! Let's go see fishy.

They hop across the rocks, not noticing the water.

6. EXT. FISHY POOL - MOMENTS LATER

They run up to the fishy pool, Ari in the lead.

69 ARI 69
Hey little fishy. You'll never
guess what we ... Huh?

Elinor and Olive join Ari at the edge of the pool.

70 ELINOR 70
What's the matter, Ari?

ANGLE ON: The water level is lower than it was earlier. The little fishy is still there.

71 ARI 71
There's hardly any water in fishy's
pool now.

72 OLIVE 72
There was lots of water before.

Ari turns and addresses the fish.

73 ARI 73

Did you drink all that water,
fishy?

Elinor has a thought.

74 ELINOR 74
Do fish drink water?

Olive has her nature book out. She flips some pages, consults the book, then looks up at Elinor and shakes her head.

75 OLIVE 75

My nature book says no, fish don't
drink water.

A beat as this sinks in <HMMMM> then Elinor smiles, as a THOUGHT BALLOON appears, showing a GIANT ALIEN WITH A STRAW, SUCKING UP WATER FROM THE STREAM.

76 ELINOR 76
Huh. Then ... Maybe a giant alien
came and drank it all, with a huge
straw!

Ari and Olive <GIGGLE> and shake their heads.

77 OLIVE 77
There must be some other reason.

78 ELINOR 78
We need more observations!

79 ARI 79
I observe that there's just a
puddle here now.

Elinor looks up at the word "puddle".

80 ELINOR 80
Puddle! That's SO interesting.

Olive starts to get what Elinor's thinking.

81 OLIVE 81

Right. There's a puddle where
fishy's swimming pool used to be.
And over near our rock walk, it
used to be dry ...

Now Ari gets it.

82 ARI 82
And now there's a puddle!

83 ELINOR 83
Let's go look.

7. EXT. UPSTREAM NARROWS - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor, Ari and Olive stand on their rock walk. Elinor points the puddle that's formed on that side of the bank.

84 ELINOR 84
There's the puddle. But where's the
water coming from?

They look from the puddle to the water that's flowing around the rocks. There's another LEAF floating toward the rocks.

OLIVE

85 There. Watch the leaf on the water. 85

The leaf swings around the rocks and into the puddle.

86 ARI 86

It's going around our rock walk and
into the puddle, instead of down to
fishy's pool.

Elinor points from one side of the stream to the other...

87 ELINOR 87
So, when we put the rocks in the
stream to get from here to there...

Then she points from the walkway to downstream where fishy's pool is.

88 ELINOR (CONT'D) 88
... we made the water stop going
from **here** to **there**.

89 OLIVE 89
Wow. We never thought that would
happen.

90 ARI 90
We have to fix it, or fishy might
not have any water to swim in.

91 ELINOR 91
Okay. Let's pull the rocks back, so
the water can go through again.

Ari and Olive agree <WALLA>.

Ari and Elinor stand on one side of the stream and work
together to pull one rock out. <EFFORT SOUNDS> . The water
starts flowing through, but still moves around the other
rock, which Olive is standing on.

92 ARI 92
It's working. Can you move the
other one away Olive?

Olive nods and steps on the other side of the stream. Then
she reaches down and pulls the other rock back. <EFFORT
SOUNDS>.

The water gushes straight through, like it did when they
first got there. Elinor and Ari high five each other.

93 ELINOR 93
Yay! We did it!

94 ARI 94
Let's go see if there's more water
in fishy's pool.

95 ELINOR 95
Okay. Come on Olive.

96 OLIVE (O.S.) 96
Um ... That might be a problem.

They look and see Olive on the other side of the stream.

97 OLIVE (CONT'D) 97
Now that the rock walk is gone, I
can't get across anymore.

Elinor and Ari look at each other.

98 ELINOR 98
 There's got to be a way to get you
 from there to here without blocking
 the water.

Elinor looks at the water flowing through and sees another
 LEAF on the water. She smiles.

99 ELINOR (CONT'D) 99
 And I think I know what it is.

A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears of the ants they saw earlier
 crossing the puddle on the leaf.

100 ELINOR (CONT'D) 100
 Remember the ants we saw crossing
 over the puddle on the leaf?

Ari looks skeptical.

101 ARI 101
 I don't think Olive could walk on a
 leaf.

Elinor <GIGGLES>.

102 ELINOR 102
 No, but maybe we could make
 something that goes **over** the
 stream, without blocking it. Like
 the ants did.

Olive gets out her notebook, which has the drawing from
 before.

103 OLIVE 103
 I think I know what we could do.

She points to the rocks on either side of the stream.

104 OLIVE (CONT'D) 104
 We have the rocks on the side of
 the stream. Maybe we could put
 something on top of them to make a
 bridge. Like this.

She draws a kind of plank across the stream, using the rocks
 as a base. She holds it up and shows it to them.

105 ARI 105
 What about the logs we were walking
 on before? One of those might work.

106 ELINOR 106
Great idea Ari. Let's go.

Elinor and Ari work together to get the log. Then they bring it to their side of the stream. They stand it up and lower it down. On the other side of the stream, Olive takes the end. On both sides, they guide the log so that it sits securely on top of the rock. During all this, they sing their song:

8. SONG: HERE TO THERE

107 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 107
*Here to there,
Here to there.
We have to find a way to get
From here to there.*

*So we built a wall of rocks
Because we didn't know
It would stop the stream from going
Where it used to go.*

*So we built a little bridge
That lets the stream go through
Now we go just where we want to
And the stream can too!*

*Here to there
Here to there
We found a better way to get
From here to there.*

At the end of the song, the bridge is built and Olive is ready to cross.

108 ELINOR 108
Come on Olive. Cross the bridge.

She steps tentatively, and then hops across.

109 OLIVE 109
It works!

110 ARI 110
Yay us! Let's go tell fishy.

They hurry downstream to visit fishy.

9. EXT. FISHY POOL - MOMENTS LATER

Fishy is happily swimming in his pool, which is up to the same level as it was before.

111	ARI	111
	Hi fishy! We're sorry we took water away from your pool.	

112	OLIVE	112
	We didn't know our rock walk would stop the water from going through.	

113	ELINOR	113
	But now we know: A bridge is better than a wall. Right fishy?	

Fishy jumps out of the water and splashes back in.

114	ARI	114
	Fishy says "Right!"	

FADE OUT.