



Elinor Wonders Why

SERIES OVERVIEW

Target Age Group: 3-5

Premieres: September 7, 2020



Elinor Wonders Why, a new multiplatform PBS KIDS® series, encourages children to follow their curiosity, ask questions when they don't understand and find answers using science inquiry skills. The main character Elinor, the most observant and curious bunny rabbit in Animal Town, will introduce kids to science, nature and community along with her friends Ari, a funny and imaginative bat, and Olive, a perceptive and warm elephant. Together, the trio explores Animal Town and meets all kinds of interesting, funny and quirky characters, each with something to teach us about respecting others, the importance of diversity, caring for the environment and working together to solve problems.

Curriculum

In each episode, Elinor models the foundational practices of science inquiry and engineering design – including her amazing powers of observation and willingness to ask questions and investigate. When she encounters something she doesn't understand, like why birds have feathers or how tiny ants build massive anthills, she just can't let it go until she figures it out. And in discovering the answers, Elinor often learns something about nature's ingenious inventions.

- Foundational science and engineering practices
- Core knowledge about life/earth sciences
- How ideas from nature connect to our human-designed world



Elinor Wonders Why is supported by a Ready To Learn grant from the U.S. Department of Education.



SAMPLE EPISODES

The Town Picnic - At the Animal Town picnic, Ari is growing impatient waiting for Ms. Llama's famous ketchup to come out of the bottle. When Elinor and her friends observe a bee hive and learn that honey is goopier when it has less water in it, they are inspired to solve their ketchup problem!

The Seed of an Idea - Elinor becomes fascinated by the Velcro on Ari's new watch and wants to find out how it works. Out on the playground, they discover that Velcro is very similar to a burr seed that is stuck to Ari's shirt, and that nature is full of inventive inspiration.

The House that Ants Built - Elinor and her friends can't seem to share materials while trying to make an awesome couch cushion castle. When Elinor gets curious about some ants walking by her windowsill, the friends notice them co-operating with each other to build the perfect nest. Now they know just what to do!



DIGITAL RESOURCES

Elinor Wonders Why will offer interactive content for kids, parents and teachers, available in fall 2020.

Offerings will include:

- Games on pbskids.org and the PBS KIDS Games app
- Streaming video on pbskids.org and the PBS KIDS Video app
- Collection of educator resources on PBS LearningMedia
- Activities and articles on PBS KIDS for Parents

Elinor Wonders Why comes to PBS KIDS from co-creators Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson. Cham is the cartoonist behind PHD Comics. He holds a PhD in Robotics from Stanford University and is a former Instructor and Research Associate at Caltech. Whiteson is a Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of California in Irvine, a fellow of the American Physical Society and earned his PhD in Physics from the University of California at Berkeley. The pair collaborated on the book *We Have No Idea: A Guide to the Unknown Universe* and the podcast "Daniel & Jorge Explain the Universe." The series is produced in partnership with Pipeline Studios.

