

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 111 Lizard Lounge

By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: Why do Lizards sit in the sun?

Log line: The kids learn that lizards use the sun to warm themselves

Curriculum Goals:

LS3. Understand that all animals need food in order to live and grow, that they get their food from plants or from other animals, and that plants and animals need water and light to live and grow: Elinor will observe that the lizard needs sunshine.

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 will rearrange the rocks and other natural things in the park to create the Lizard Lounge.

SEP1b: Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena [They ask why the lizards are choosing this rock specifically]

SEP3b: Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail [comparing the feeling of shade and sun]

SEP6a: Use background knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena [The kids hypothesize why the lizards sit on that rock]

SEP7: Engaging in argument from evidence [Elinor reminds them that lizards only sit on rocks during the day]

SEP8b: Obtain information using various age-appropriate texts, text features, and other media to help answer a question and/or support an explanation [Hazel looks up lizards]

LINE COUNT: 102

MAIN CHARACTERS: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Ranger Rabbit, Mrs. Beaver,

INCIDENTAL CHARACTERS: Mr. Buffalo and Mrs. Hippo.

SETTING: Park

PROPS: Two lizards, rocks, water bottle, sun hat.

FIRST DRAFT: 13-Feb-19

SECOND DRAFT: 5-March-19

POLISH 14-March-19

RECORD DRAFT: 20-March-19

Ari stops right in the shade of a small tree while everyone else is in the sun. Ranger Rabbit hands him a water bottle and he takes a long drink while Ranger Rabbit gives Olive some fruit slices.

8 ARI (CONT'D) 8
Ahhhh... that's better.

Ranger Rabbit walks ahead a little, and Olive shares the fruit with the other kids.

As they munch, a little breeze blows through, and Ari starts to shiver slightly.

9 ARI (CONT'D) 9
Ooh. I feel a little bit chilly
here!

10 ELINOR 10
Really? I'm not cold. It's nice and
toasty in the sun.

Ari looks up at the tree and at the ground, and then steps out from under the shade.

11	ARI	11
	Wow, the sun can really warm you up!	

Olive steps into the shade.

12 OLIVE 12

Yeah, standing in the shade cools
you down, and the sun warms you up.
(sways to the sun)
Warm.
(sways to the shade)
Cool!

13 RANGER RABBIT 13
OK, let's keep going! Ari, are you
feeling better?

14 ARI 14
Yeah! Thanks, Mrs. Rabbit! Parents
are the BEST!

Elinor and Olive <GIGGLE> and Ranger Rabbit smiles. They start walking again.

15 MRS. BEAVER 15
(indistinct OS)
Oh no. No, no, no... that wasn't
the plan...

Elinor and her Mom look at each other puzzled.

16 RANGER RABBIT 16
I wonder what's going on.

They go off to investigate.

2. EXT CLEARING -- DAY

Mrs. Beaver and her helpers, Mr. Buffalo and Mrs. Hippo, are gathered around a folding table with a set of blueprint plans on it.

Ranger Rabbit and the kids enter the clearing.

17 MRS. BEAVER 17
Nope. Nope! That just won't do.

Ranger Rabbit and the kids approach the table.

18 RANGER RABBIT 18
Hello, Mrs. Beaver. Is something wrong?

Mrs. Beaver throws her arms in the air in frustration.

19 MRS. BEAVER 19
Is something wrong? Oh, only
EVERYTHING! We can't do ANYTHING
today. We are supposed to build a
new park bench right over there!

Mrs. Beaver holds up a blueprint sketch of the bench and points to a rock sitting in a sunny spot in the middle of the clearing.

20 ELINOR 20
That's a great spot for a bench! It
would have such a nice view of the
river.

21 RANGER RABBIT 21
Oh, I see. That rock is in the
way.

22 ARI 22
Do you need help moving it? I'm
super strong, I can do it!

23 MRS. BEAVER 23
Thanks Ari, but MOVING the rock is
not the problem.
(MORE)

MRS. BEAVER (CONT'D)

The problem is that there are two LIZARDS sitting on the rock and they just won't budge!

And of course, park rules say we can't build something if there are animals there. We've tried everything to get them to leave so we can move the rock and build our bench, but nothing works!

The kids fire some suggestions at Mrs. Beaver from both sides. As she answers, she turns her head back and forth.

24 ELINOR 24
Did you try shoo-ing them away?

Mrs. Beaver nods.

25 OLIVE 25
Did you try calling them to come
over here?

26 MRS. BEAVER 26
Tried it.

27 ELINOR 27
Did you wave your arms?

28 MRS. BEAVER 28

Yup.

29	ARI	29
	Did you try singing a song and doing a silly dance? Like THIS! La, la, LAAA!	

Ari does a silly soft shoe. Everyone looks at Ari. A beat.

30 ARI (CONT'D) 30
Hey, it could work!

The kids and Ranger Rabbit smile.

OLIVE

Do the lizards EVER move?

32 MRS. BEAVER 32
Yes, they do leave at the end of
the day, but by then it's too dark
for us to work!

33 ELINOR 33
What about in the morning?

34 MRS. BEAVER 34
Every morning they come back and
climb on top of the rock again!

35 RANGER RABBIT 35
Mrs. Beaver, have you thought about
building the bench in a different
spot?

36 MRS. BEAVER 36
A different spot? Oh no! The plans
say we have to build it there! If
we don't figure out something soon,
we won't be able to build the
bench!

37 RANGER RABBIT 37
Hmmm... Can I take a look at the
plans, Mrs. Beaver?

While Ranger Rabbit and Mrs. Beaver huddle over the plans,
the kids move to the side to discuss.

38 ELINOR 38
Hmmm, that is SO INTERESTING! I
wonder why the lizards like that
rock so much?

39 ARI 39
There's another rock right over
there. I wonder why the lizards
like *this* rock, and not that other
one?

Ari points to another rock in the clearing, a few paces from
the lizard rock. This rock is sitting in the shade between
two small trees.

40 OLIVE 40
Good question, Ari. If we knew what
they liked about *that* rock, maybe
we could figure out how to get them
to move to another rock!

41 ELINOR 41
Hmmm. It sounds like we need MORE
OBSERVATIONS!

The kids run over to the other (shaded) rock, which is
closer, and sit down behind it to look at the lizards.

42 ELINOR (CONT'D) 42
Ok. Why do the lizards like to sit
on that rock so much?

43 OLIVE 43
Maybe they like the view of the
river?

44 ARI 44
But they're looking the wrong
direction!

45 ELINOR 45
Maybe they're playing a *super* long
game of freeze tag?

46 OLIVE 46
Hmmm, but they DO move. They leave
at the end of the day and come back
in the morning. And I've never
heard of lizards playing tag.

47 ARI 47
I wonder what lizards DO like to
do?

48 ELINOR 48
I know! Let's learn more about
lizards. Olive, do you have your
Nature Book?

49 OLIVE 49
Of course! It's my favorite book!

She pulls her NATURE BOOK out of her satchel and cracks it
open so they can all get a good view.

50 OLIVE (CONT'D) 50
Let's see... Ladybugs... Leaves...
Lilypads... Ah, here it is.
Lizards!
(reading)
Lizards are animals with scaly
skin.

Olive points out the scales on the lizards in her book.

51 OLIVE (CONT'D) 51
They mostly eat bugs...

52 ARI 52
Crunchy!

53 OLIVE 53
And they also eat worms.

54 ARI 54
Slurpy!

55 OLIVE 55
But they also like fruit!

56 ARI 56
I like fruit!

57 OLIVE 57
And they need the sun to warm
themselves up.

This makes Elinor think.

58 ELINOR 58
Hmmm...

Just then, another little breeze blows through in the shade,
and Ari feels a little bit of a shiver.

59 ARI 59
Speaking of the sun, I'm feeling a
little chilly here in the shade.
I'm gonna move over here where it's
sunny.

ANGLE ON: Ari moves out of the shade into a sunny spot.

60 ARI (CONT'D) 60
Ahh, that's better.

Elinor looks closely at Ari.

61 ELINOR 61
Ooooooh.
(suddenly she realizes)
That's it! It's the sun! The
lizards must like that rock over
there because it's in the sun, so
it's warmer!

ANGLE ON: the lizard rock in bright sunlight.

62 OLIVE 62
You're right! They look nice and
toasty over there.

63 ARI 63
The rock is where they sit to get
warm!

64 ELINOR 64
Hmmm. But why do they leave the
rock at the end of the day?

65 OLIVE 65
I know! It's because there's no sun
at the end of the day. That's why
they leave!

66 ELINOR 66
That's it!! Let's go tell Mrs.
Beaver and my mom!

The kids rush back over to where the adults are.

67 ELINOR (CONT'D) 67
Mom! I think we discovered
something! The lizards like to sit
on that rock because it's in the
sun.

68 OLIVE 68
Lizards use the sun to warm
themselves up.

69 ARI 69
And that other rock is too shady
and cool for them.

70 RANGER RABBIT 70
I think you're right, kids. Lizards
can't get warm by themselves, so
they like to sit in places that get
a lot of sun.

71 MRS. BEAVER 71
Huh! Well, I'm glad we figured that
out, but how do we get them to
move!?

72 ELINOR 72
Well... now that we know WHY they
like that rock, maybe we can figure
out how to make them move to
ANOTHER rock.

73 OLIVE 73
Yeah, we need to get the sun OFF of
their rock and ON to another rock.

74 ARI 74
Ok, all we have to do is move the
sun from there to... over there!
Mr. Buffalo, can you move the sun?

Mr. Buffalo looks confused and shrugs.

75 OLIVE 75
Ari, we can't move the sun!

76 MRS. BEAVER 76
(thinking)
No, but we can move that other rock
into a sunny spot.

77 ELINOR 77
Great idea!

The adults and the kids move over to the rock where the kids were before. Everyone stands back as Mr. Buffalo and Mrs. Hippo roll the rock a few feet over into the sun. Under the rock we see some worms wriggling.

78 OLIVE 78
Perfect! That's just the way the
lizards like it. Nice and sunny!

79 ARI 79
We can make it even nicer for the
lizards. Let's get them some
snacks!

The kids collect stuff to make the rock a perfect spot for the lizards. They pick the worms from under the rock and find fruit slices from Ranger Rabbit's backpack.

As they work, they sing a ditty explaining what they're doing and enticing the lizards to come over:

80 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 80
In the sun! In the sun!
You can feel warm and have more
fun!

We want to find the perfect spot,
For lizards to feel nice and hot!

Worms look really gross to eat
But lizards think they're quite a
treat!

In the sun! In the sun!
You can feel warm and have more
fun!

Feel warm and have more fun!

At the end of the ditty, the rock has worms and fruit slices on it. The kids and the adults step back and look to where the lizards are still hanging out, unmoved.

81	ELINOR	81
	Hmmm. The lizards haven't moved.	
82	MRS. BEAVER	82
	Oh, it didn't work! We won't be able to build the park bench!	
83	RANGER RABBIT	83
	Hmmm...	
84	OLIVE	84
	But we made them the perfect spot!	
85	ARI	85
	Maybe they haven't noticed yet?	
86	ELINOR	86
	Hey, Lizards, look at this warm rock over here!	
87	OLIVE	87
	It's in the sun!	
88	ARI	88
	Check it out! It's got worms and fruit and it's nice and warm!	
	The lizards ignore them.	
89	OLIVE	89
	They're NOT moving.	
90	ELINOR	90
	I guess they like their rock.	
	Ari stretches his wings out in frustration.	
91	ARI	91
	But our rock is sunny and warm, too!	
	His open wings make a big patch of shade right in front of Elinor.	
92	ELINOR	92
	Wait a minute. That's it! Your shadow! We need shade! Good thinking, Ari!	
	Ari looks a bit surprised, then pleased with himself.	
93	ARI	93
	Yeah! Umm... What?	

Elinor whispers in Ari's ear.

94	ARI (CONT'D)	94
	Oh, I get it! I can make shade on the rock to cool it down! Leave it to me!	

Ari flaps his wings and takes off. He flies over to the lizards' rock and hovers above them, using his wings to make shade. He's starting to get tired, and the lizards shift a bit but don't move.

95	OLIVE	95
	They still aren't moving! It must not be cool enough yet.	

96	ARI	96
	I can't fly forever!	

Just as he looks ready to give up, the lizards start to move. They slither off Mrs. Beaver's rock and go over to the rock the kids prepared, where they munch happily on the snacks.
<SFX: ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI YAY WE DID IT WALLA>

97	RANGER RABBIT	97
	They moved! Good job, kids!	

98	MRS. BEAVER	98
	Thank you so much, kids! Now we can build the bench and finish the project!	

Mrs. Beaver and her helpers go off to start building the bench.

99	ELINOR	99
	And the lizards can still stay warm on their new rock. Good job, Ari!	

Ari flies back and collapses on the ground.

100	ARI	100
	Phew! Now I'm a bit hungry too!	

101	OLIVE	101
	Well, the lizards ate the fruit... but there are still some worms left!	

102	ARI	102
	Ok, I'm not THAT hungry.	

They all giggle. From above, we take in the scene and point up towards the sun as we...

FADE OUT

SEGMENT 2.

1. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE are gathered in front of Ms. Mole's desk, looking expectant.

103	OLIVE	103
	Isn't it story time?	

104 ELINOR 104
Yeah. Where'd Ms. Mole go? She was
just here!

The kids look left and right, confused. Ms Mole pops out from behind the desk.

[illegible]

Elinor hops in the air. Olive's ears flap out and Ari hides under his wings. <SFX: ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE SURPRISE WALLA INCL. TRUNK TRUMPET>

106 MS MOLE (CONT'D) 106
Ha ha! I love it. Because today's
story time is about SURPRISES and
what LIZARDS do when they get
SURPRISED.

Ms. Mole opens the book, revealing a lizard (a green anole) sunning itself happily on a rock.

2. EXT GRASSY FIELD (BOOK) -- DAY

The lizard is lying on a sunny rock. It's smiling, eyes closed.

107 MS MOLE (O.S.) 107
This lizard is about to get a big
surprise.

The lizard opens its eyes, looking alarmed by Ms. Mole's words.

108 MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 108
Look out! Up in the sky, there's a hawk!

Pan up to the sky and zoom in on a hawk silhouette. The hawk looks down, squawking in anticipation. <SFX: ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE GASP OH, NO WALLA>

109 MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 109
The hawk swoops down!

The hawk swoops towards the lizard's tail end. It opens its talons, reaching out to grasp the lizard.

110 MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 110
But then something SURPRISING happens: The lizard's tail falls off!

The lizard's tail falls off. The hawk looks surprised.

ON: Ms. Mole, she's very reassuringly.

111 MS MOLE (CONT'D) 111
Don't worry, kids. Our lizard friend isn't hurt. A lizard can drop its tail on purpose!

BACK ON: The lizard's scene. The hawk is standing on the ground, poking at the tail with its beak. It's wiggling. The lizard sneaks behind the rock.

112 MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 112
The tail wiggles so that the lizard can escape!

The lizard sneaks off the screen.

BACK ON: The kids.

113 ELINOR 113
Is the lizard OK without a tail?

114 MS MOLE 114
Yes, and this lizard has one more surprise for you!

BACK ON: The tailless lizard, sunning itself once more on a rock.

115 MS MOLE (CONT'D) 115
Over the next few months, the lizard GROWS A NEW TAIL!

The lizard's tail slowly regrows over sped-up day/night moon/sun cycles [possibly: use rapid page flip]. Once the tail is back to its normal length, the lizard happily swishes it back and forth. <SFX: ELINOR/OLIVE OOOOH WALLA>

BACK ON: Ms. Mole. She closes the book, while Ari tiptoes in sneakily from behind her.

116 MS MOLE (CONT'D) 116
And that's the end of our story!

Ari is about to tap Ms. Mole on the shoulder, but she turns around and surprises him.

117 MS MOLE (CONT'D) 117
(gently, playful)
Boo!

Ari jumps, then <SFX: Ari laughs>

118 MS. MOLE 118
Nice try, Ari! But it's not so easy
to surprise this old mole!

119 ARI 119
You're right! Ms. Mole, you are one
cool teacher, and you win the
surprise prize!

Elinor, Ari and Olive <SFX: GIGGLE>

THE END.