

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: 123

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

1. EXT TRAIL -- DAY

Open on a beautiful scene on a cool morning in early spring. The sun is out, but it's not sweltering. The setting is thin and open. We see RANGER RABBIT (wearing a BACKPACK), ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE (carrying her SATCHEL) in the middle distance, walking towards us. They disappear around a hill and then come around a corner into view, full size. First to appear is Ranger Rabbit, also wearing a SUN HAT.

1 RANGER RABBIT 1
What a WONDERFUL day for a walk!

Elinor and Olive appear, also wearing SUN HATS. Olive has her NOTEPAD out.

2 ELINOR 2
Yeah, mom, I love sunny days! There
are so many interesting things to
see and smell and find!

Elinor follows around a butterfly.

3 OLIVE 3
(drawing a flower)
Elinor, you notice interesting
things on any kind of day!

4 ELINOR 4
(stops to think)
It's true, Olive. I like rainy
days, and windy days and cloudy
days... (pause) I like all kinds of
days!

Elinor and Olive <GIGGLE>. Just then, Ari comes around the bend last, his pace dragging a bit in comparison to the others. He looks a little winded (but not hot).

5 ARI 5
Phew. Wait up, guys! How do you
walk so fast?

6 RANGER RABBIT 6
(empathetically)
Oh, Ari. I think it might be a good
time for a little break.

The group pauses to wait for Ari.

7 ARI 7
Good! I'm a bit thirsty!

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
Brr. I feel a little bit chilly
here!

10 ELINOR 10
Really? I'm not cold.

11 OLIVE 11
Me either! 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.

*

12	ARI	12
	Wow, the sun can really warm you up!	

*

13 OLIVE 13
 (pointing at the shady
 spot Ari was in)
And the shade cools you down.

14 ELINOR 14
OK, let's keep going!

*
*

The group starts to move.

15	ARI	15
	The sun is nice and warm, but now I	
	wish I had brought a hat, like my	
	parents suggested!	

*
*

16 RANGER RABBIT 16
Your parents gave me one for you,
Ari.

*

She pulls a folded hat out of her backpack and he gladly puts it on.

*

17	ARI	17	
	Thanks, Mrs. Rabbit! Parents are		*
	the BEST.		

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

18 MRS. BEAVER 18
(indistinct OS)
Oh no. No, no, no... that wasn't
the plan...

19 ELINOR 19
What's that about, mom?

20 RANGER RABBIT 20
I don't know, Elinor, let's go find out. *

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.

21 MRS. BEAVER 21
Nope. Nope! That just won't do.

Ranger Rabbit and the kids approach the table.

22	RANGER RABBIT	22	
	Hello, Mrs. Beaver. Is something		*
	wrong?		

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

23 MRS. BEAVER 23

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.

24 ELINOR 24
That's a great spot for a bench!

25	OLIVE	25	
	Yeah, it would have such a nice view of the river.		*
26	RANGER RABBIT	26	
	Oh, I see. That rock is in the way.		*
27	ELINOR	27	
	Do you need help moving it?		
28	ARI	28	
	I'm super strong, I can help!		
29	MRS. BEAVER	29	
	Thanks Ari, but MOVING the rock is not the problem. The problem is that there are two LIZARDS sitting on the rock and they just won't budge!		
30	RANGER RABBIT	30	
	Hmmmmmm.		*
31	MRS. BEAVER	31	
	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.			
32	ELINOR	32	
	Did you try shoo-ing them away?		*
33	MRS. BEAVER	33	
	Yes.		
34	OLIVE	34	
	Did you try calling them from here?		*
35	MRS. BEAVER	35	
	Tried it.		
36	ELINOR	36	
	Did you wave your arms?		*
37	MRS. BEAVER	37	
	Yup.		

38	ARI	38	
	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.		
39	ARI (CONT'D)	39	
	Hey, it could work!		
	The kids and Ranger Rabbit smile.		
40	OLIVE	40	
	Do the lizards EVER move?		
41	MRS. BEAVER	41	*
	Yes, they do leave at the end of the day, but by then it's too dark for us to work!		*
			*
42	ELINOR	42	
	What about in the morning?		
43	MRS. BEAVER	43	*
	Every morning they come back and climb on top of the rock again!		*
44	RANGER RABBIT	44	*
	Mrs. Beaver, have you thought about building the bench in a different spot?		
45	MRS. BEAVER	45	
	A different spot? Oh no! The plans say we have to build it there!		
46	RANGER RABBIT	46	
	Hmmm...		
47	MRS. BEAVER	47	*
	If we don't figure out something soon, we won't be able to build the bench!		*
48	RANGER RABBIT	48	
	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.		*

49	ELINOR	49	
	Hmmm, that is SO INTERESTING! I wonder why the lizards like that rock so much?		
50	OLIVE	50	*
	There's another rock right over there.		
	Olive 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.		*
51	ARI	51	
	I wonder why the lizards like <i>this</i> rock, and not that other one?		*
			*
52	OLIVE	52	
	Good question, Ari. If we knew what they liked about <i>that</i> rock, maybe we could figure out how to get them to move to another rock!		*
			*
			*
53	ELINOR	53	
	Hmmm. It sounds like we need MORE OBSERVATIONS!		
	The kids run over to the other (shaded) rock and sit down behind it to look at the lizards. Olive has her notepad out.		*
54	ELINOR (CONT'D)	54	
	Ok. Why do the lizards like to sit on that rock so much?		*
55	OLIVE	55	
	Maybe they like the view of the river?		*
			*
56	ARI	56	
	But they're looking the wrong direction!		
57	ELINOR	57	
	Maybe they're playing a <i>super</i> long game of freeze tag?		
58	OLIVE	58	
	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.		*
			*
			*

59	ARI	59	
	I wonder what lizards DO like to do?		
60	ELINOR	60	
	I know! Let's learn more about lizards. Olive, do you have your Nature Book?		
61	OLIVE	61	
	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.		*
62	OLIVE (CONT'D)	62	
	Let's see... Ladybugs... Leaves... Lilypads... Ah, here it is. Lizards!		
	Ari and Elinor lean in.		
63	OLIVE (CONT'D)	63	
	(reading)		
	Lizards are animals with scaly skin.		*
	Olive points out the scales on the lizards in her book.		*
64	OLIVE (CONT'D)	64	*
	They mostly eat bugs...		*
65	ELINOR/ARI	65	*
	Whoa! / Ew!		*
66	OLIVE	66	
	And they also eat worms.		
67	ELINOR / ARI	67	*
	Ooohh! / Yikes!		*
68	OLIVE	68	
	But they also like fruit!		
69	ARI / ELINOR	69	
	Ok! / I like fruit!		
70	OLIVE	70	
	They lay eggs, like birds do...		
71	ELINOR/ARI	71	
	Huh!/That's cool!		*

72 OLIVE 72
And they need the sun to warm
themselves up.
This makes Elinor think.

73 ELINOR 73
Hmmm...

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

74 ARI 74
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.

75 ARI (CONT'D) 75
Ahh, that's better.
Elinor looks closely at Ari.

76 ELINOR 76
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.

77 OLIVE 77
You're right! They look nice and
toasty over there.

78 ARI 78
The rock is like their spot to get *
warm! *

79 ELINOR 79
Hmmm. But why do they leave the *
rock at the end of the day? *

80 OLIVE 80
I know! It's because there's no sun
at the end of the day. That's why *
they leave! *

81	ELINOR That's it!! Let's go tell Mrs. Beaver and my mom!	81	
	The kids rush back over to where the adults are.		*
82	ELINOR (CONT'D) Mom! We figured it out!	82	*
	Ranger Rabbit and Mrs. Beaver turn to the kids.		*
83	ELINOR (CONT'D) The lizards like to sit on that rock because it's in the sun.	83	*
84	OLIVE Lizards use the sun to warm themselves up.	84	
85	ARI And that other rock is too shady and cool for them.	85	*
86	RANGER RABBIT 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.	86	*
87	MRS. BEAVER Huh! Well, I'm glad we figured that out, but how do we get them to move!?	87	
88	ELINOR Well... now that we know WHY they like that rock, maybe we can figure out how to make them move to ANOTHER rock.	88	* *
89	OLIVE Yeah, we need to get the sun OFF of their rock and ON to another rock.	89	
90	ARI (squinting up at the sky, then pointing to the rocks) Ok, all we have to do is move the sun from there to... over there! Mr. Buffalo, can you move the sun?	90	
	Mr. Buffalo looks confused and shrugs.		

91	OLIVE	91	
	Ari, we can't move the sun!		
92	MRS. BEAVER	92	*
	(thinking) No, but we can move that other rock into a sunny spot.		
93	ELINOR	93	*
	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.		* *
94	OLIVE	94	
	Perfect! That's just the way the lizards like it. Nice and sunny!		
95	ARI	95	
	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:		
96	ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE	96	
	We want to find the perfect spot, For lizards to feel nice and hot!		
	In the sun! In the sun! You can feel warm and have more fun!		
	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!		
	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.		
97	ELINOR	97	*
	Hmmm. The lizards haven't moved.		

98	MRS. BEAVER	98	
	Oh, it didn't work! We won't be able to build the park bench!		* *
99	RANGER RABBIT	99	
	Hmmm...		
100	OLIVE	100	
	But we made them the perfect spot!		
101	ARI	101	
	Maybe they haven't noticed yet?		*
102	ELINOR	102	
	Hey, Lizards, look at this warm rock over here!		
103	OLIVE	103	
	It's in the sun!		
104	ARI	104	
	Check it out! It's got worms and fruit and it's nice and warm!		* *
105	ELINOR	105	
	C'mon, give it a try!		*
	The lizards ignore them.		
106	OLIVE	106	
	They're NOT moving.		
107	ELINOR	107	
	I guess they like their rock.		
	Ari stretches his wings out in frustration.		
108	ARI	108	
	But our rock is sunny and warm, too!		* *
	His open wings make a big patch of shade right in front of Elinor.		
109	ELINOR	109	
	Wait a minute. That's it! Your shadow! We need shade! Good thinking, Ari!		* * *
	Ari looks a bit surprised, then pleased with himself.		
110	ARI	110	
	Yeah! Umm... What?		

Elinor whispers in Ari's ear.

111	ARI (CONT'D)	111	
	Oh, I get it! I can make shade to		*
	cool down the rock! 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. *

112	OLIVE	112	
	They still aren't moving!		

113	ARI	113	
	I can't fly forever!		

114	ELINOR	114	
	Just a bit longer, Ari!		

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.

115	OLIVE/ARI/ELINOR	115	
	Yay! / Whew! / We did it!		

116	RANGER RABBIT	116	
	Good job, kids!		

117	MRS. BEAVER	117	
	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.

118	ELINOR	118	
	And the lizards get to enjoy the		
	warm sun.		*

119	OLIVE	119	
	And a nice snack!		

Ari flies back and collapses on the ground.

120	ELINOR	120	
	Good job, Ari!		

121	ARI	121	
	(using his hat to fan		
	himself)		
	Phew! Now I'm a bit hungry too!		

```

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

```

123	ARI	123
	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

THE END.