

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: 112

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

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
Ahhhhh... 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.

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!	

Olive steps into the shade. *

13	OLIVE	13	*
	Yeah, and standing in the shade		*
	cools you down.		*
	(sways to the sun)		*
	Warm.		*
	(sways to the shade)		*
	Cool!		*

14	RANGER RABBIT	14	*
	OK, let's keep going! Ari, are you		*
	feeling better?		*

15	ARI	15	*
	Yeah! Thanks, Mrs. Rabbit! Parents		*
	are the BEST!		*

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

16 MRS. BEAVER 16
(indistinct OS)
Oh no. No, no, no... that wasn't
the plan...

17 ELINOR 17
What's that about, mom?

18 RANGER RABBIT 18
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.

19 MRS. BEAVER 19
Nope. Nope! That just won't do.

Ranger Rabbit and the kids approach the table.

20 RANGER RABBIT 20
Hello, Mrs. Beaver. Is something
wrong?

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

21 MRS. BEAVER 21
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.

22 ELINOR 22
That's a great spot for a bench! It
would have such a nice view of the
river. *

23 RANGER RABBIT 23
Oh, I see. That rock is in the
way. *

24 ARI 24
Do you need help moving it? I'm
super strong, I can do it! *

25	MRS. BEAVER	25
	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!	*
	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.	
26	ELINOR	26
	Did you try shoo-ing them away?	
27	MRS. BEAVER	27
	Yes.	
28	OLIVE	28
	Did you try calling them to come over here?	* *
29	MRS. BEAVER	29
	Tried it.	
30	ELINOR	30
	Did you wave your arms?	
31	MRS. BEAVER	31
	Yup.	
32	ARI	32
	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.	
33	ARI (CONT'D)	33
	Hey, it could work!	
	The kids and Ranger Rabbit smile.	
34	OLIVE	34
	Do the lizards EVER move?	

35	MRS. BEAVER Yes, they do leave at the end of the day, but by then it's too dark for us to work!	35	
36	ELINOR What about in the morning?	36	
37	MRS. BEAVER Every morning they come back and climb on top of the rock again!	37	
38	RANGER RABBIT Mrs. Beaver, have you thought about building the bench in a different spot?	38	
39	MRS. BEAVER 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!	39	*
40	RANGER RABBIT Hmmm... Can I take a look at the plans, Mrs. Beaver?	40	*
While Ranger Rabbit and Mrs. Beaver huddle over the plans, the kids move to the side to discuss.			
41	ELINOR Hmmm, that is SO INTERESTING! I wonder why the lizards like that rock so much?	41	
42	ARI There's another rock right over there. I wonder why the lizards like <i>this</i> rock, and not that other one?	42	* * * *
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.			
43	OLIVE 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!	43	* * *

44 ELINOR 44
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. *
*

45 ELINOR (CONT'D) 45
Ok. Why do the lizards like to sit
on that rock so much?

46 OLIVE 46
Maybe they like the view of the
river?

47 ARI 47
But they're looking the wrong
direction!

48 ELINOR 48
Maybe they're playing a *super* long
game of freeze tag?

49 OLIVE 49
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.

50 ARI 50
I wonder what lizards DO like to
do?

51 ELINOR 51
I know! Let's learn more about
lizards. Olive, do you have your
Nature Book?

52 OLIVE 52
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.

53 OLIVE (CONT'D) 53
Let's see... Ladybugs... Leaves...
Lilypads... Ah, here it is.
Lizards!

Ari and Elinor lean in.

54	OLIVE (CONT'D)	54	
	(reading)		
	Lizards are animals with scaly skin.		
	Olive points out the scales on the lizards in her book.		
55	OLIVE (CONT'D)	55	
	They mostly eat bugs...		
56	ARI	56	*
	Crunchy!		*
57	OLIVE	57	
	And they also eat worms.		
58	ARI	58	*
	Slurpy!		*
59	OLIVE	59	
	But they also like fruit!		
60	ARI	60	*
	I like fruit!		*
61	OLIVE	61	
	They lay eggs, like birds do...		
62	ELINOR	62	*
	Wow!		*
63	OLIVE	63	
	And they need the sun to warm themselves up.		
	This makes Elinor think.		
64	ELINOR	64	
	Hmmmm...		
	Just then, another little breeze blows through in the shade, and Ari feels a little bit of a shiver.		
65	ARI	65	
	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.		
66	ARI (CONT'D)	66	
	Ahh, that's better.		

Elinor looks closely at Ari.

67	ELINOR	67
	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.

68	OLIVE	68
	You're right! They look nice and toasty over there.	

69	ARI	69	*
	The rock is where they sit to get warm!		

70	ELINOR	70
	Hmmm. But why do they leave the rock at the end of the day?	

71	OLIVE	71
	I know! It's because there's no sun at the end of the day. That's why they leave!	

72	ELINOR	72
	That's it!! Let's go tell Mrs. Beaver and my mom!	

The kids rush back over to where the adults are.

73	ELINOR (CONT'D)	73	*
	Mom! I think we discovered something!		*

Ranger Rabbit and Mrs. Beaver turn to the kids.

74	ELINOR (CONT'D)	74
	The lizards like to sit on that rock because it's in the sun.	

75	OLIVE	75
	Lizards use the sun to warm themselves up.	

76	ARI	76
	And that other rock is too shady and cool for them.	

77	RANGER RABBIT	77	
	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.		
78	MRS. BEAVER	78	
	Huh! Well, I'm glad we figured that out, but how do we get them to move!?		
79	ELINOR	79	
	Well... now that we know WHY they like that rock, maybe we can figure out how to make them move to ANOTHER rock.		
80	OLIVE	80	
	Yeah, we need to get the sun OFF of their rock and ON to another rock.		
81	ARI	81	*
	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.		
82	OLIVE	82	
	Ari, we can't move the sun!		
83	MRS. BEAVER	83	
	(thinking) No, but we can move that other rock into a sunny spot.		
84	ELINOR	84	
	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.		
85	OLIVE	85	
	Perfect! That's just the way the lizards like it. Nice and sunny!		
86	ARI	86	
	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:

87 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 87
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.

88 ELINOR 88
Hmmm. The lizards haven't moved.

89 MRS. BEAVER 89
Oh, it didn't work! We won't be
able to build the park bench!

Hmmm...

RANGER RABBIT

OLIVE

But we made them the perfect spot!

92 ARI 92
 Maybe they haven't noticed yet?

93 ELINOR 93
Hey, Lizards, look at this warm
rock over here!

94 OLIVE 94
It's in the sun!

95 ARI 95

Check it out! It's got worms and
fruit and it's nice and warm!

96	ELINOR	96	
	C'mon, give it a try!		
	The lizards ignore them.		
97	OLIVE	97	
	They're NOT moving.		
98	ELINOR	98	
	I guess they like their rock.		
	Ari stretches his wings out in frustration.		
99	ARI	99	
	But our rock is sunny and warm, too!		
	His open wings make a big patch of shade right in front of Elinor.		
100	ELINOR	100	
	Wait a minute. That's it! Your shadow! We need shade! Good thinking, Ari!		*
	Ari looks a bit surprised, then pleased with himself.		
101	ARI	101	
	Yeah! Umm... What?		
	Elinor whispers in Ari's ear.		
102	ARI (CONT'D)	102	
	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.		
103	OLIVE	103	
	They still aren't moving! It must not be cool enough yet.		* *
104	ARI	104	
	I can't fly forever!		
105	ELINOR	105	
	Just a little 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.

106	OLIVE/ARI/ELINOR	106	
	Yay! / They moved! / We did it!		*
107	RANGER RABBIT	107	
	Good job, kids!		
108	MRS. BEAVER	108	
	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.

109	ELINOR	109	
	And the lizards can still stay warm on their new rock. Good job, Ari!		* *
	Ari flies back and collapses on the ground.		*
110	ARI	110	*
	Phew! Now I'm a bit hungry too!		
111	OLIVE	111	
	Well, the lizards ate the fruit... but there are still some worms left!		
112	ARI	112	
	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. *

113	OLIVE	113	*
	Isn't it story time?		*

114	ELINOR	114	*
	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.		*
115	MS MOLE	115	*
	Surprise! Here I am!		*
	Elinor hops in the air. Olive's ears flap out and Ari hides under his wings.		*
116	ELINOR / ARI / OLIVE	116	*
	Wow! / Oh! / [Olive trumpets her trunk]		*
			*
117	MS MOLE	117	*
	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.		*
			*
118	MS MOLE (O.S.)	118	*
	This lizard is about to get a big surprise.		*
			*
	The lizard opens its eyes, looking alarmed by Ms. Mole's words.		*
119	MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	119	*
	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.		*
120	ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI (O.S.)	120	*
	Gasps / Uh-oh! / Watch out!		*
121	MS MOLE (O.S.)	121	*
	The hawk swoops down!		*
			*
	The hawk swoops towards the lizard's tail end. It opens its talons, reaching out to grasp the lizard.		*

122	MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 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.	122	* * * * * *
123	MS MOLE (CONT'D) 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.	123	* * * * * *
124	MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) The tail wiggles so that the lizard can escape! The lizard sneaks off the screen. BACK ON: The kids.	124	* * * * * *
125	ELINOR Is the lizard OK without a tail?	125	* *
126	MS MOLE Yes, and this lizard has one more surprise for you! BACK ON: The tailless lizard, sunning itself once more on a rock.	126	* * * * *
127	MS MOLE (CONT'D) 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.	127	* * * * * *
128	ELINOR/OLIVE Amazing! / Ooh! BACK ON: Ms. Mole. She closes the book, while Ari tiptoes in sneakily from behind her.	128	* * * *
129	MS MOLE And that's the end of our story!	129	* *

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

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130                                MS MOLE (CONT'D)                                130
                                (gently, playful)
                                Boo!

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Ari jump, then <SFX: laughs>

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

131 ARI 131

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

Elinor, Ari and Olive <SFX: GIGGLE>

THE END.