

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]

CHARACTERS: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Ranger Rabbit, Mrs. Beaver, Mr. Buffalo and Mrs. Hippo.

SETTING: Park

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

FIRST DRAFT: 13-Feb-19

1. EXT TRAIL -- DAY

Open on a beautiful scene with the sun out, but not sweltering. The setting is thin and open, mostly bushes and just a few trees, so there is not much shade. We see RANGER RABBIT, ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE (wearing a BACKPACK) 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, 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!

Elinor follows around a butterfly.

3 OLIVE 3
(drawing a flower)
Elinor, you find interesting things to see 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) But sunny days are the BEST!

Elinor and Olive <GIGGLE>. Just then, Ari comes around the bend last, looking a bit hot and his pace dragging in comparison to the others. He's less enthusiastic.

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 water break.

The group pauses to wait for Ari.

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

Ari stops right in the shade of a small tree. Ranger Rabbit hands him a water bottle and he takes a long drink.

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

Ranger Rabbit walks ahead a little, and Olive hands out some FRUIT for the other kids.

The kids munch on slices of fruit. 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 steps out from under the shade.

12 ARI 12
Ahhh, that's better. 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 RANGER RABBIT 14
Alright kids, ready to keep
walking?

The group starts to move.

15 ARI 15

The sun is nice and warm, but now I
wish I had brought a hat!

16 RANGER RABBIT 16
Oh, I have one for you, Ari.

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

17 ARI 17
Thanks, Mrs. Rabbit! Moms 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.	

24	RANGER RABBIT	24
	What are you trying to do?	

25	MRS. BEAVER	25
	We are trying to do our job! We are supposed to install 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.

26	ELINOR	26
	That's a great spot for a bench!	

27 OLIVE 27
Yeah, it would have such a nice
view.

28 RANGER RABBIT 28
Oh, I see. The rock's in the way.

29 ELINOR 29
Do you need help moving it?

30 ARI 30
I'm super strong, I can help!

31 MRS. BEAVER 31
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!

32 RANGER RABBIT 32
I see.

33 MRS. BEAVER 33
We've tried everything to get these
lizards 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.

34 ELINOR 34
Did you try to shoo them away?

35 MRS. BEAVER 35
Yes.

36 OLIVE 36
Did you talk to them?

37 MRS. BEAVER 37
Tried it.

38 ELINOR 38
Did you try calling them from over
here?

39 MRS. BEAVER 39
Yup.

40	ARI	40
	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.	
41	ARI (CONT'D)	41
	Hey, it could work!	
	The kids and Ranger Rabbit smile.	
42	OLIVE	42
	Do the lizards EVER move?	
43	MRS. BEAVER	43
	Yes, they do leave at the end of the day, when it gets dark. But by then my workers and I have all gone home.	
44	ELINOR	44
	What about in the morning?	
45	MRS. BEAVER	45
	They get here before us, as soon as the sun comes up.	
46	OLIVE	46
	If they are here first, then it's fair they get to use the rock.	
47	RANGER RABBIT	47
	Mrs. Beaver, have you thought about building the bench in a different spot?	
48	MRS. BEAVER	48
	A different spot? Oh no! The plans say we have to build it there!	
49	RANGER RABBIT	49
	Hmmm...	
50	MRS. BEAVER	50
	If we don't figure out something soon, we might have to cancel the WHOLE project!	
51	RANGER RABBIT	51
	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.

52 ELINOR 52
Hmmm, that is SO INTERESTING! I
wonder why the lizards like that
rock so much?

53 OLIVE 53
Yeah, they come back to the same
rock every day!

54 ARI 54
There's another rock right over
there.

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.

55 ARI (CONT'D) 55
I wonder why the lizards like *that*
rock, and not this other one?

56 OLIVE 56

Good question, Ari. If we knew what they liked about their rock, maybe we could figure out a way to get them to move!

57 ELINOR 57
Hmmm. It sounds like we need MORE
OBSERVATIONS!

The kids run over to the other rock and sit down behind it to look at the lizards. Olive has her notepad out.

58 ELINOR (CONT'D) 58
Ok. Why do the lizards like to sit
in that rock so much?

59 OLIVE 59
Maybe they like the view?

60 ARI 60
But they're looking the wrong
direction!

61 ELINOR 61
Maybe they're playing a *super* long
game of freeze tag?

62 OLIVE 62
Hmmm, but they DO move at the end
of the day. And I've never heard
of lizards playing tag.

63 ARI 63
I wonder what lizards DO like to
do?

64 ELINOR 64
I know! Let's learn more about
lizards. Olive, do you have your
Nature Book?

65 OLIVE 65
Of course! It's my favorite book!

She pulls her NATURE BOOK out of her satchel and cracks it
open putting it on a stump in the shade so they can all get a
good view.

66 OLIVE (CONT'D) 66
Let's see... Ladybugs... Leaves...
Lilypads... Ah, here it is.
Lizards!

Ari and Elinor lean in.

67 OLIVE (CONT'D) 67
(reading)
Lizards are animals that have
scales on their skin. They mostly
eat bugs...

68 ELINOR/ARI 68
Gross! / Ew!

69 OLIVE 69
And they also eat worms.

70 ARI / ELINOR 70
Yuck! / Ewww!

71 OLIVE 71
But they also like fruit!

72 ARI / ELINOR 72
Ok! / I like fruit!

73 OLIVE 73
They lay eggs, like birds do...

74 ELINOR/ARI 74
Whoa!/That's cool!

75	OLIVE	75
	And they need the sun to warm themselves up.	
	This makes Elinor think.	
76	ELINOR	76
	Hmmmm...	
	Just then, Ari feels a little bit of a shiver.	
77	ARI	77
	Speaking of the sun, I'm feeling a little chilly here in the shade. I'm gonna move over here.	
	ANGLE ON: Ari moves out of the shade into a sunny spot.	
78	ARI (CONT'D)	78
	Ahh, that's better.	
	Elinor looks closely at Ari.	
79	ELINOR	79
	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.	
80	OLIVE	80
	You're right! They look nice and toasty over there.	
81	ARI	81
	Huh, that rock is like their warming spot.	
82	ELINOR	82
	Hmmm. But why do they leave at the end of the day?	
83	OLIVE	83
	I know! It's because there's no sun at the end of the day, so they leave!	
84	ELINOR	84
	That's it!! Let's go tell Mrs. Beaver and my mom!	

The kids rush back over to Ranger Rabbit and Mrs. Beaver.

85 ELINOR (CONT'D) 85
Mom! We figured it out!

86 RANGER RABBIT 86
What did you figure out, Elinor?

87 ELINOR 87
The lizards like that rock because
it's in the sun.

88 OLIVE 88
Lizards use the sun to warm
themselves up.

89 ARI 89
And that other rock is too shady
and chilly for them.

90 RANGER RABBIT 90
I think you're right, kids. Lizards
can't get warm by themselves, so
they look for places that get a lot
of sun.

91 MRS. BEAVER 91
Huh! Well, I'm glad we figured that
out, but how do we get them to
move!?

92 ELINOR 92
Well... now that we know WHY they
like that rock, maybe we can get
them to move to ANOTHER rock.

93 OLIVE 93
Yeah, we need to get the sun OFF of
their rock and ON to another rock.

94 ARI 94
 (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?

Mr. Buffalo looks confused and shrugs.

95 OLIVE 95
Ari, we can't move the sun!

96 RANGER RABBIT 96
(thinking)
No, but we can move that other rock
into a sunny spot.

97 ELINOR 97
Great idea, mom!

The adults and the kids move over to the rock the kids were observing in 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.

98 OLIVE 98
Perfect! That's just the way the
lizards like it. Nice and sunny!

99 ARI 99
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 Olive's bag.

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

100 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 100
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.

101 ELINOR 101
Hmmm. The lizards haven't budged.

102	MRS. BEAVER	102
	Oh, it didn't work! We're going to have to cancel the park bench!	
103	RANGER RABBIT	103
	Hmmm...	
104	OLIVE	104
	But we made them the perfect spot!	
105	ARI	105
	Maybe they didn't notice yet?	
106	ELINOR	106
	Hey, Lizards, look at this warm rock over here!	
107	OLIVE	107
	It's in the sun!	
108	ARI	108
	Check it out! It's got worms and... fruit!	
109	ELINOR	109
	C'mon, just give it a try!	
	The lizards ignore them.	
110	OLIVE	110
	They're NOT moving.	
111	ELINOR	111
	I guess they like their rock.	
	Ari stretches his wings out in frustration.	
112	ARI	112
	Because it's sunny and warm.	
	His open wings make a big patch of shade right in front of Elinor.	
113	ELINOR	113
	Wait a minute. That's it! We need shade! Good thinking Ari!	
	Ari looks a bit surprised, then pleased with himself.	
114	ARI	114
	Yeah! Umm... What?	
	Elinor whispers in Ari's ear.	

115 ARI (CONT'D) 115
Oh, I get it! 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 working up a sweat, and the lizards shift a bit but don't move.

116	OLIVE	116
	They still aren't moving!	

117 ARI 117
I can't fly forever!

118 ELINOR 118
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.

119 OLIVE/ARI/ELINOR 119
Yay! / Whew! / We did it!

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120                                RANGER RABBIT                                120
                                Good job, kids!

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121 MRS. BEAVER 121
Thank you so much! Now we can
finish the project!

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

122 ELINOR 122
And the lizards get to enjoy the
sun.

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123                                OLIVE                                123
                                And a nice snack!

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Ari flies back and collapses on the ground.

124 ELINOR 124
Good job, Ari!

125	ARI	125
	(using his hat to fan himself)	
	Phew! Now I'm a bit hungry too!	

126 OLIVE 126
Well, the lizards ate the fruit...
but there are still some worms
left!

127 ARI 127
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.