

There's a Lizard in My Closet: Asking Questions About Nature

Grade 1

Essential Question

How does asking questions help us learn about nature?

Resources:

Florida Green Anole Video: [Green Anole YouTube Video](#)

Junior Lizard Detective Journal

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Ask thoughtful questions about the natural world.
- Use clues from the story to make predictions.
- Distinguish between imagination and scientific observations.
- Learn basic facts about lizards.
- Explain how asking questions helps scientists learn.

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Materials

- *There's a Lizard in My Closet*
- Pictures of Florida brown anoles
- Chart paper
- Student "Lizard Detective" worksheet

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Hook (10 minutes)

Display a large picture of a brown anole.

Say:

"Today we're going to be nature detectives."

Ask:

- What do you notice?
- What do you wonder?

Record every question students ask.

Examples:

- Why is it brown?
- Does it bite?
- What does it eat?
- Where does it sleep?
- Can it climb walls?
- Why is it looking at us?

Then explain:

Scientists begin by asking questions. Today, we're going to do the same thing.

Read Aloud

As you read, point out every time the narrator wonders something.

Examples:

“I wonder how he got there.”

“I wonder what’s his plan.”

“Maybe...”

“Or maybe...”

Ask:

Is the child asking good questions?

Explain:

Good questions help us learn.

Discussion

Create three columns.

I Wonder...	I Think...	I Learned...
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Begin with:

I Wonder...

How did the lizard get inside?

Students share ideas.

Move to:

I Think...

Students make predictions using clues from the story.

Finally:

I Learned...

Share real facts.

Examples:

- There are more than **7,000 species of lizards**.
- Most small lizards eat insects.
- Lizards sometimes wander indoors by accident.
- They belong outside where they can find food, sunshine, water, and shelter.

Discuss how scientists answer questions by observing and learning—not by guessing.

Activity

Lizard Detective Journal

Students become scientists.

For each prompt they complete:

I Wonder...

(Write one question about lizards.)

I Think...

(Make a prediction.)

I Learned...

(Write one new fact from today’s lesson.)

Finally:

Draw the lizard in its natural habitat.

Wrap-Up

Return to the Essential Question.

Ask:

How does asking questions help us learn about nature?

Guide students toward:

- Questions help us notice things.
- Questions help us discover answers.
- Scientists ask questions every day.
- Curiosity helps us become lifelong learners.

Assessment

Students successfully:

- Ask an observation question.
- Make a prediction.
- Share one scientific fact they learned.
- Complete the “Lizard Detective Journal.”

Conservation Connection: Everything Matters

Every discovery begins with a question. Whether we’re learning about a tiny lizard, a nesting sea turtle, or the stars above us, curiosity helps us better understand the world around us. When we take time to observe, ask questions, and learn, we become better caretakers of the incredible plants and animals that share our planet.

Florida B.E.S.T. Standards

English Language Arts

ELA.1.R.1.1

Ask and answer questions about key details in a literary text.

ELA.1.R.1.2

Identify the central idea or lesson in a story and explain how details support it.

ELA.1.C.1.2

Participate in collaborative conversations by listening, asking questions, and building on others’ ideas.

Science

SC.1.N.1.1

Raise questions about the natural world, investigate them, and use observations to gather information.

SC.1.L.17.1

Compare and contrast the basic needs of living things.