

There's a Lizard in My Closet

Kindergarten

Theme: Wild Animals Belong in the Wild

Time: 50–60 minutes

Essential Question

How can we help wild animals while letting them stay wild?

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Retell the story.
- Learn basic facts about lizards.
- Compare a home habitat to a human house.
- Explain why wild animals should live outdoors.
- Practice empathy toward wildlife.

Before Reading

Show a photograph of a Florida brown anole.

Ask:

- Have you ever seen a lizard?
- Where was it?
- What do you think lizards eat?
- Do you think a lizard would enjoy living inside your house?
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Read Aloud

Stop occasionally to ask:

- Why do you think the child imagines so many stories?
- How do you think the lizard feels?
- Was the family kind?
- Why didn't they keep him as a pet?
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Let's Learn About Lizards!

Ask students what they already know.

Then share a few fun facts.

Did You Know?

 There are **more than 7,000 kinds of lizards** around the world!

 Florida is home to **many different kinds of lizards**, including green anoles, brown anoles, geckos, skinks, and fence lizards.

 Most lizards eat:

- ants
- flies
- mosquitoes
- beetles
- spiders

Some larger lizards even eat fruit, flowers, eggs, or small animals.

Can Lizards Live Inside?

Talk about what a lizard needs:

- ✓ sunshine to warm its body
- ✓ insects to eat
- ✓ water
- ✓ places to climb and hide
- ✓ fresh air

Then compare.

Main Activity

Does It Belong?

Give students picture cards.

Examples:

Sun
Ant
Rock
Tree
Bed
Shoe
Car
Plant

Students sort them into:

Things a Lizard Needs and Things People Need

Discuss why some things belong in one group but not the other.

Conservation Connection

Explain:

Sometimes wild animals accidentally end up inside our homes.

The kindest thing we can do is:

- Stay calm.
- Ask an adult for help.
- Never hurt the animal.
- Help it return outside where it belongs.

Wrap-Up

Ask: “If a little lizard wandered into your house tomorrow, what would you do?”

Students turn to a partner and explain.

Extension Activity

Lizard Detectives

If students see a lizard outside at recess or at home, encourage them to observe it from a distance.

Can they notice:

- What color is it?
- Does it climb?

- Is it looking for bugs?
- Is it basking in the sun?
- Does it bob its head or flick its tail?

Then have them draw what they observed and share it with the class.

Florida Standards

ELA.K.R.1.1 – Identify characters, setting, and major events.

ELA.K.C.1.2 – Participate in collaborative conversations.

SC.K.L.14.3 – Recognize that living things have basic needs.

SC.K.L.17.1 – Observe that animals live where their needs can be met.

SC.K.N.1.5 – Observe and describe objects using the five senses.