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# Crocodiles

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# American Crocodile

(*Crocodylus acutus*)



Ancient Greek for Lizard

# Body Appearance

\_\_\_\_\_ - males grow much larger and more rapidly than females

Dorsal surfaces are armored with \_\_\_\_\_ - thick and rugged scales that provide protection

Most species are over 17ft long and can weigh up to 2,000 pounds



# Movement

Streamlined Bodies

Land speed record is 11 miles per hour

Tucks in feet when swimming to reduce \_\_\_\_\_.





# Diet

Carnivorous - feeds on mostly vertebrates such as fish, reptiles, birds, mammals and sometimes invertebrates such as mollusks and crustaceans depending on the species and age.

\_\_\_\_\_ - Use prey's poor nocturnal vision to their advantage.

Ambush predators - they wait for fish or land animals to come close, then rush to attack.



# Diet

Crocodiles have the most \_\_\_\_\_ of any vertebrate. They can easily digest bones, hooves, and horns.

As \_\_\_\_\_ predators they have a slow metabolism, so they can survive long periods without food.



# Location

Found in Africa, Asia,  
Australia, and the  
Americas.

\_\_\_\_\_ - can be found  
on land or in water.



# Adaptations

Sharp teeth pierce and hold onto flesh.

Saltwater Crocodiles can close their jaws with \_\_\_\_\_ pounds per square inch of force.

Crocodiles are very fast over short distances, even out of water.





# Adaptations

Eyes, ears, and nostrils are located on the top of the head, allowing the crocodile to lay low in the water, almost completely hidden from prey

Developed sense of smell, allowing them to detect prey or \_\_\_\_\_ that are from far away, on land or in water.



# Reproduction

Ready to mate at around 8 to 10 years old

Crocodiles dig holes at least 10 ft deep for nests to hide eggs in from predators

Can lay from 10 to 100 eggs.

Very protective over the nest and young



# Crocodile vs. Alligator

Long, narrow, v shaped head.

4th tooth exposed

Green color

U Shaped head

Overbite

Darker grayish color

# Crocodile vs. Alligator

side view



**Mississippi, or American, alligator**  
(*Alligator mississippiensis*)



**estuarine, or saltwater, crocodile**  
(*Crocodilus porosus*)

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# Crocodile Poaching

They are hunted for their \_\_\_\_\_ and their skin is used for

\_\_\_\_\_, etc. and have a very high demand.



# Crocodile Farms

Crocodile Farms breed and grow crocodiles for a \_\_\_\_\_.

Their skin is used for belts, bags, cases, etc. and have a very high demand.

Crocodile Farms are thought to relieve stress on the \_\_\_\_\_ of wild crocodiles.



# Crocodile Ranches

Crocodile Ranches collect wild eggs, hatchlings, and juveniles that have a \_\_\_\_\_ of making it to adulthood.

