



Gator and Croc Fun Facts



Try completing the puzzles
before reading the article.

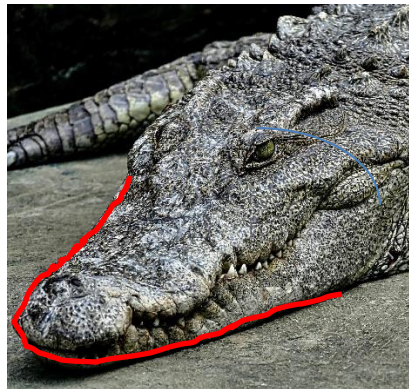


Alligators and crocodiles are reptiles that have lived on earth since the days of dinosaurs.



Although there are crocodiles that live in salt water, alligators and crocodiles that live in the United States live in freshwater habitats like wetlands and swamps. However, there have been many sightings of alligators on golf courses near the ponds. Sometimes alligators are even found in backyard swimming pools but that only happens if the swimming pool is near their normal nesting area.

How can you tell an alligator from a crocodile? You look at their snout, the shape of their head. An alligator has a wider, round snout sort of U-shaped. A crocodile has a narrower, pointed snout sort of V-shaped.



Although most are smaller, alligators can grow to be over 15 feet long and weigh over 1,000 pounds. Crocodiles have grown even bigger. Some of the largest crocodiles have grown longer than 20 feet and over 2,000 pounds, but most are smaller. Both have recorded lifespans of over 70 years with crocodiles living the longest.

Both reptiles have webbed feet and a long tail. In shallow water, their feet are used to walk. However, in deeper water, they tuck their legs to the sides of their body and use their tail to propel them through the water. They can be much faster than a person swimming. They also have flaps that close off their nose and ears when swimming in water and can stay in deeper water for long periods of time.

Alligators and crocodiles are ambush hunters. Their eyes and nose are at the top of their head so the rest of their body can be covered by water which makes them hard to see.



They will wait, quiet and still, for a fish to swim by or an animal to come to the water's edge for a drink. Then they will quickly bite the animal and hold onto it with their sharp teeth.

Unlike humans who only have two sets of teeth, their teeth are constantly worn down and replaced. Alligator and crocodile teeth can be replaced with new teeth over 50 times during their lifetime.

The jaws of these animals are very strong and can bite down with over 1,000 pounds of pressure. However, even though their jaws are strong at biting down, they are very weak in the other direction. An animal trainer can keep the animal's mouth closed simply with his bare hands but we don't recommend you try this.

Speaking of their mouth, did you ever see an alligator or crocodile just lying on land with its mouth wide open? These animals do not sweat. They do this often because, like dogs that pant with their mouth open,



this is how these reptiles cool their body. Because they are cold-blooded, they must find ways to regulate their body temperature. They bask in the sun when they are too cold and go in cool water or open their mouth when too hot.

Alligators and crocodiles hatch from eggs. Whether the animal is born a boy or a girl depends on the temperature of the eggs. If the eggs are warmer than about 92 degrees, a boy is hatched. If the eggs are cooler than about 88 degrees, a girl is hatched.

Temperatures in between can hatch boys or girls. The babies are less than 12 inches long and the mother will carry them to the water in her mouth and then let

them hunt. The babies need no training and are natural hunters.



Outside of zoos, there are very few crocodiles in the United States except in south Florida. Alligators are much more common throughout some of the southern states.

Alligators were placed on the endangered list for fear of extinction due to so many hunters wanting their hides. However, they are now protected by law and are no longer on the endangered list.

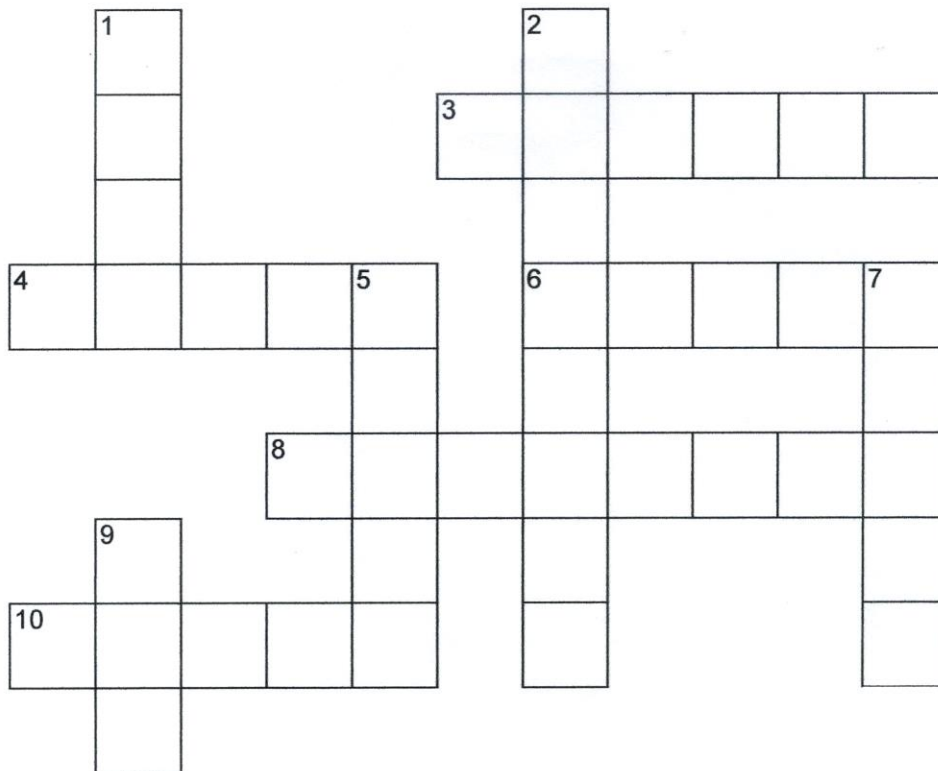
To learn more about these animals, visit a zoo near you. While at the zoo, see how many Badges you can earn while playing **Photo Fun Safaris**. The app is FREE and so is the Free Intro Safari.



NOTE: These educational resources were created by 3-time TOY Ron Borkowicz, Ph.D. Thanks to the generosity of **Photo Fun Safaris, LLC** FREE unlimited reproduction of this material - including via social media - is granted providing it is reproduced in its entirety including the Logo on page one and this notice. **Photo Fun Safaris, LLC** creates free apps that contain animal scavenger hunts for ages 5 to adult in zoos & aquariums throughout America. For information on these Safaris, go to www.PhotoFunSafaris.com. ©2023

Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Crossword Puzzle #1



ACROSS

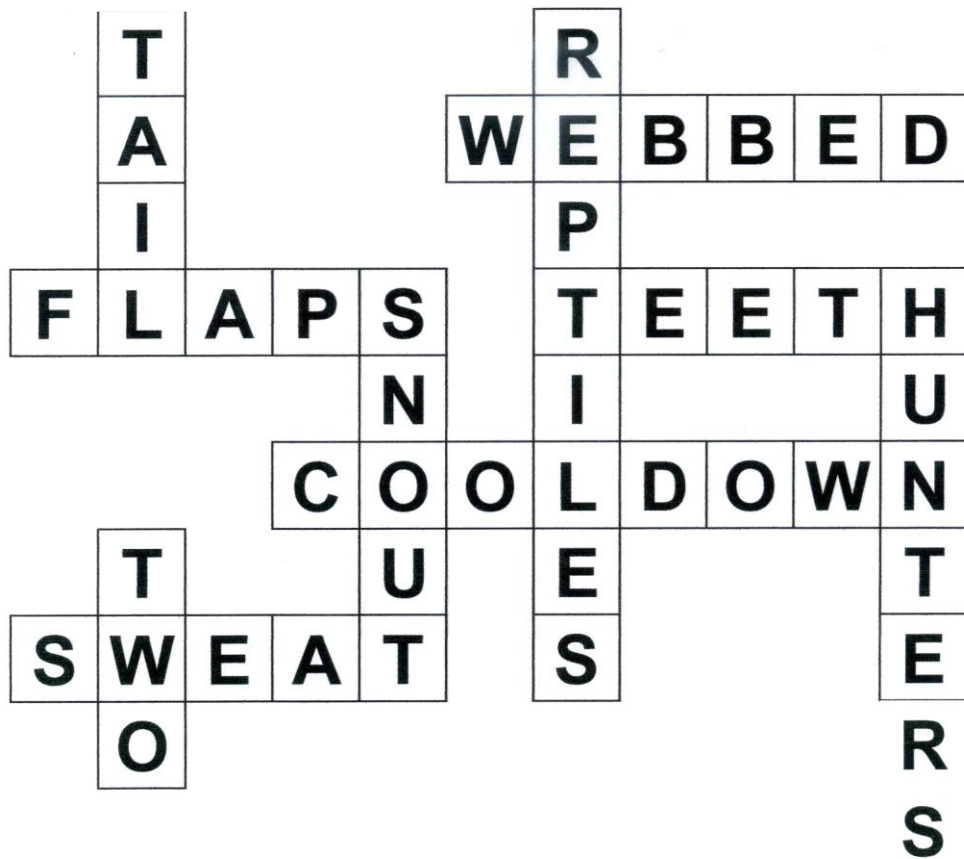
- 3 Both animals have _____ feet.
- 4 Both animals have _____ that close their nose and ears.
- 6 Gators can replace their _____ over fifty times in their lifetime.
- 8 Gators keep their mouth open to _____.
- 10 Gators and crocs do not _____.

DOWN

- 1 Both animals use their _____ to swim.
- 2 Gators and crocs are both _____.
- 5 You can tell a gator from a croc by the shape of their _____.
- 7 Baby crocs are natural _____.
- 9 The largest croc can weigh over _____ thousand pounds.

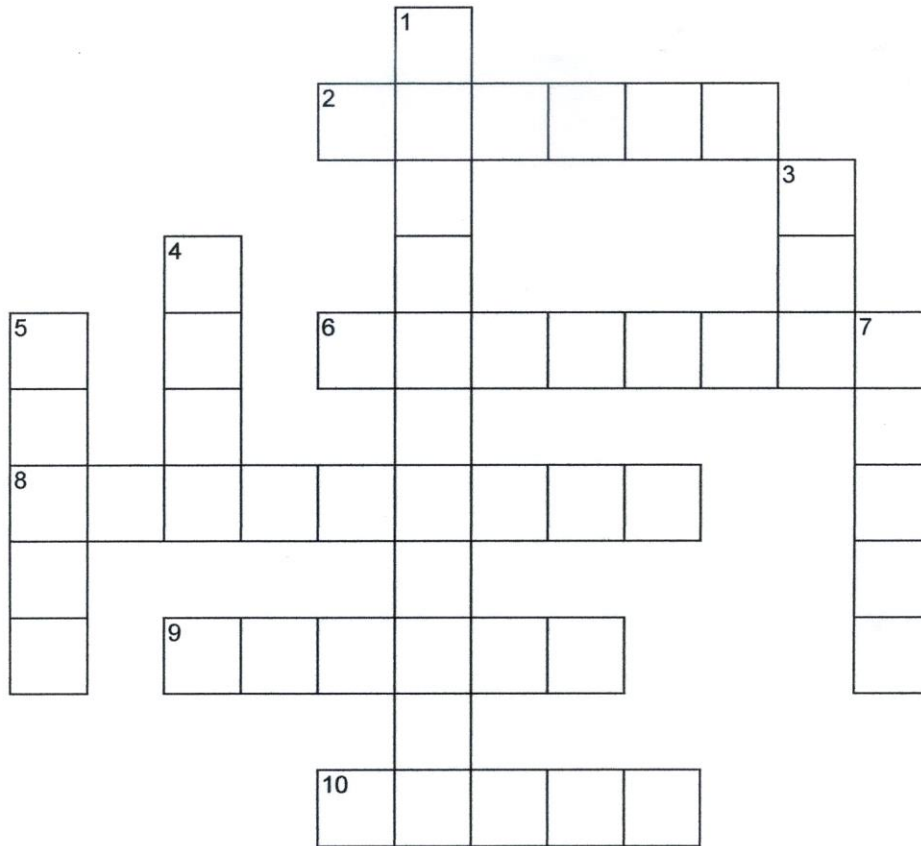
Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Crossword Puzzle #1



Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Crossword Puzzle #2



ACROSS

- 2 Both animals have _____ feet.
- 6 Gators and crocs are both _____.
- 8 An _____ has a U-shaped snout.
- 9 Gators and crocs are _____ hunters.
- 10 Gators can replace their _____ over fifty times in their lifetime.

DOWN

- 1 Being born a boy or girl croc depends on egg _____.
- 3 Both can bite down with over _____ thousands pounds of pressure.
- 4 Both animals use their _____ to swim.
- 5 Both animals have _____ that close their nose and ears.
- 7 Gators and crocs do not _____.

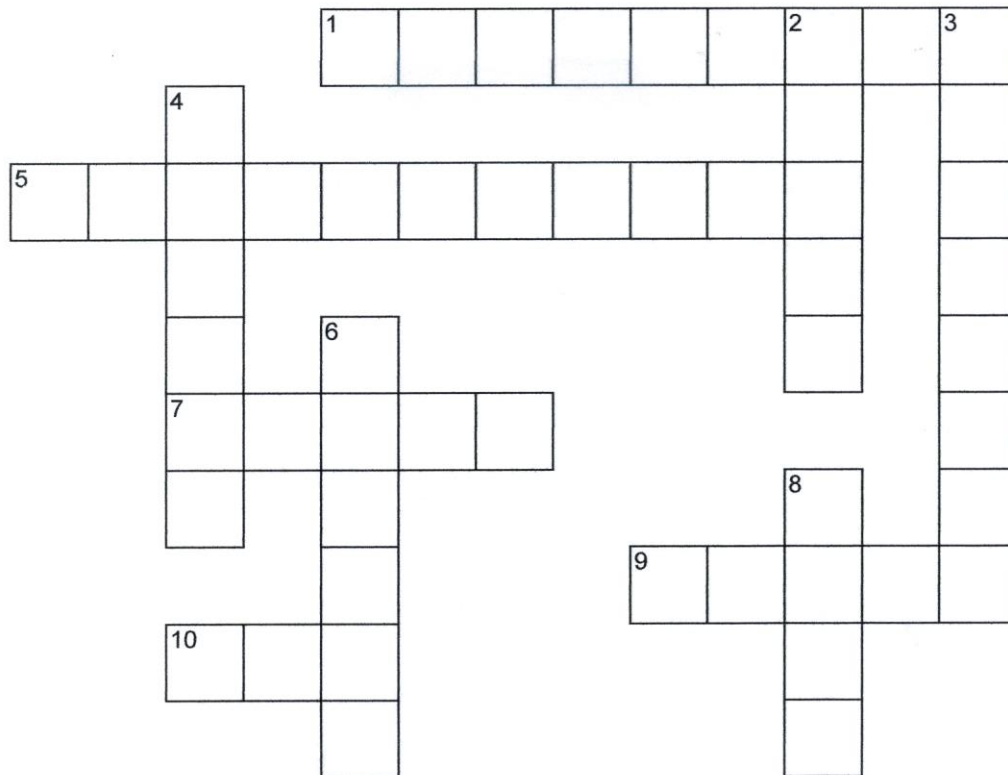
Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Crossword Puzzle #2



Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Crossword Puzzle #3



ACROSS

- 1 An _____ has a U-shaped snout.
- 5 Being born a boy or girl croc depends on egg _____.
- 7 Gators and crocs do not _____.
- 9 Both animals have _____ that close their nose and ears.
- 10 Both can bite down with over _____ thousands pounds of pressure.

DOWN

- 2 Gators can replace their _____ over fifty times in their lifetime.
- 3 Gators and crocs are both _____.
- 4 Gators and crocs are _____ hunters.
- 6 Both animals have _____ feet.
- 8 Both animals use their _____ to swim.

Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Wordsearch Puzzle #1

B G S N O U T V H U N T E R R N
Y P W E T L A N D S S W A M P S
W D K M R E P T I L E C L L H M
Q T Y R F R E S H W A T E R N P
K B L K R R V S H A P E D M R V
T E E T H A M B U S H K Q X N T
R B L A L L I G A T O R T N M M
R H N C O L D B L O O D E D N H
Y Z N L H P K P C R O C F J Y P
U S H A P E D E A R F L A P S N
J J V N M G A T O R C P D Z C N
F N H B N B C R O C O D I L E F
L T M N N O S E F L A P S K N J
T W E B B E D F E E T Y R T R R
L K P L O N G T A I L C L K Z Z
N D O N T S W E A T F Q V Z T H

Alligator

Ambush

Coldblooded

Croc

Crocodile

Dontsweat

Earflaps

Freshwater

Gator

Hunter

Longtail

Noseflaps

Reptile

Snout

Swamps

Teeth

Ushaped

Vshaped

Webbedfeet

Wetlands

Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Wordsearch Puzzle #1

B G **S N O U T** V **H U N T E R** R N
Y P **W E T L A N D S** **S W A M P S**
W D K M **R E P T I L E** C L L H M
Q T Y R **F R E S H W A T E R** N P
K B L K R R **V S H A P E D** M R V
T E E T H **A M B U S H** K Q X N T
R B L **A L L I G A T O R** T N M M
R H N **C O L D B L O O D E D** N H
Y Z N L H P K P **C R O C** F J Y P
U S H A P E D **E A R F L A P S** N
J J V N M **G A T O R** C P D Z C N
F N H B N B **C R O C O D I L E** F
L T M N **N O S E F L A P S** K N J
T **W E B B E D F E E T** Y R T R R
L K P **L O N G T A I L** C L K Z Z
N **D O N T S W E A T** F Q V Z T H

Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Wordsearch Puzzle #2

N C N D G C W G N H N T P H L W
R N F V A R D H D M W E T L R G
R O R S T O R S D W E A Y B G N
F S L H O C L N B K B R L P T W
R E G A R R H O R M B F F H T K
E F T P K W S U D H E L F C E M
S L T E B C W T O A D A K O E K
H A W D F R A W N L F P L L T P
W P E V J O M M T L E S O D H A
A S T R T C P H S I E B N B U M
T K L E M O S U W G T M G L S B
E Z A P F D N N E A Z G T O H U
R L N T T I T T A T R H A O A S
P K D I J L Q E T O T K I D P H
P R S L M E D R Z R Z B L E E D
V D Y E W F T Y Y P W M L D D H

Alligator
Ambush
Coldblooded
Croc
Crocodile

Dontsweat
Earflaps
Freshwater
Gator
Hunter

Longtail
Noseflaps
Reptile
Snout
Swamps

Teeth
Ushaped
Vshaped
Webbedfeet
Wetlands

Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Wordsearch Puzzle #2

N	C	N	D	G	C	W	G	N	H	N	T	P	H	L	W
R	N	F	V	A	R	D	H	D	M	W	E	T	L	R	G
R	O	R	S	T	O	R	S	D	W	E	A	Y	B	G	N
F	S	L	H	O	C	L	N	B	K	B	R	L	P	T	W
R	E	G	A	R	R	H	O	R	M	B	F	F	H	T	K
E	F	T	P	K	W	S	U	D	H	E	L	F	C	E	M
S	L	T	E	B	C	W	T	O	A	D	A	K	O	E	K
H	A	W	D	F	R	A	W	N	L	F	P	L	L	T	P
W	P	E	V	J	O	M	M	T	L	E	S	O	D	H	A
A	S	T	R	T	C	P	H	S	I	E	B	N	B	U	M
T	K	L	E	M	O	S	U	W	G	T	M	G	L	S	B
E	Z	A	P	F	D	N	N	E	A	Z	G	T	O	H	U
R	L	N	T	T	I	T	T	A	T	R	H	A	O	A	S
P	K	D	I	J	L	Q	E	T	O	T	K	I	D	P	H
P	R	S	L	M	E	D	R	Z	R	Z	B	L	E	E	D
V	D	Y	E	W	F	T	Y	Y	P	W	M	L	D	D	H

Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Wordsearch Puzzle #3

B W D N V D L T K T N G Z W M X
T A E N O S O O X D V V T K Y F
C N L T C S H N N H Q G M C T J
T O J L L R E A T G U S H L K L
B R L D I A O F P S T N N Q F W
M F A D C G N C L E W A T O P V
W X R M B R A D O A D E I E U G
K E L E B L O T S D P G A L R T
B C B E S U O C O R I S A T L N
L T U B A H S O S R E L X T H L
R Q E S E R W H D W Q P E R O X
K Z F E H D F A Y E A R T N L R
Q X B G T A F L T R D M H I N Z
Y N K M G H P E A E R Z P Z L D
M N B K K W F E E P R Z K S M E
M M X T F L N W D T S Q R K K W

Alligator
Ambush
Coldblooded
Croc
Crocodile

Dontsweat
Earflaps
Freshwater
Gator
Hunter

Longtail
Noseflaps
Reptile
Snout
Swamps

Teeth
Ushaped
Vshaped
Webbedfeet
Wetlands

Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Wordsearch Puzzle #3

B W D N V D L T K T N G Z W M X
T A E N O S O O X D V V T K Y F
C N L T C S H N N H Q G M C T J
T O J L L R E A T G U S H L K L
B R L D I A O F P S T N N Q F W
M F A D C G N C L E W A T O P V
W X R M B R A D O A D E I E U G
K E L E B L O T S D P G A L R T
B C B E S U O C O R I S A T L N
L T U B A H S O S R E L X T H L
R Q E S E R W H D W Q P E R O X
K Z F E H D F A Y E A R T N L R
Q X B G T A F L T R D M H I N Z
Y N K M G H P E A E R Z P Z L D
M N B K K W F E E P R Z K S M E
M M X T F L N W D T S Q R K K W

Gator and Croc Fun Facts

Wordsearch Puzzle #4

R F N R U C D S W K L R J R V M
K Y R W W S R K N N M G X H D J
N G C E Y E H O R O A G R M H D
Z D W P S L T A C Y U M T B J T
Y V N G H H O L P O T T B M W L
H U N T E R W N A E D H C U Z P
N D K H D L Q A G N D I O J S C
O O N B P T W R T T D T L V S H
S N W C R O C L R E A S D E W N
E T V R E P T I L E R I B V A Q
F S W E B B E D F E E T L S M K
L W A L L I G A T O R B O H P G
A E C G Y Y N Y Y L R V O A S A
P A T E A R F L A P S M D P H T
S T R J T E E T H K L K E E L O
P M P K P M T L Z J R K D D K R

Alligator
Ambush
Coldblooded
Croc
Crocodile

Dontsweat
Earflaps
Freshwater
Gator
Hunter

Longtail
Noseflaps
Reptile
Snout
Swamps

Teeth
Ushaped
Vshaped
Webbedfeet
Wetlands

Thanks for Playing

Don't forget to play the Photo Fun Safaris app
the next time you visit the zoo or aquarium

