



# CROCODILES



(800) 295-5010



# Disney's ANIMAL WORLD

## CROCODILES

### Objectives

The student in grades K-2 will:

- Become familiar with the physical characteristics of crocodiles
- Learn how crocodiles adapt to their environment
- Be introduced to the behavior of crocodiles and their offspring

### Synopsis

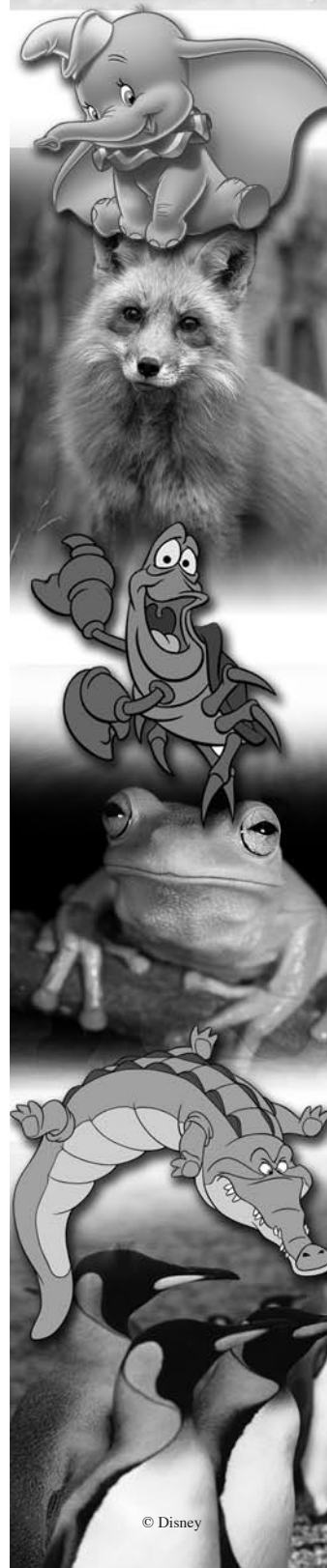
Through live-action footage, students visit tropical regions around the world to observe wild crocodiles. Clips from Disney animated films such as *The Jungle Book* further illustrate key facts about these reptilian predators. Students take a look inside crocodile mouths at their replaceable teeth, and learn how they use camouflage to stalk their prey. Students also discover that female crocodiles faithfully watch over their eggs and hatchlings to prevent other meat eaters—including other crocs—from snacking on their offspring. Two short, fun quizzes help students focus on what they've learned.

### Preview Questions

1. What does a crocodile look like? Does it look more like a snake, a lizard or a dinosaur? Is a crocodile's skin smooth, bumpy, or furry? Do you think crocodiles live in water, on land, or both places? Are they plant eaters or meat eaters?
2. What kind of weather do you think crocodiles need to survive? Do you think there are any crocodiles in the United States?

### Suggested Activities

1. Read students a picture book on crocodiles. Nonfiction children's books on this topic include *Snap! A Book About Alligators and Crocodiles* by Melvin and Gilda Berger (Scholastic, 2002). Fiction stories include *Rockabye Crocodile* by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey (William Morrow, 1993) and *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* by Bernard Waber (Houghton Mifflin, 1972). Invite students to recall parts of the book that reminded them of facts they learned from the crocodile episode of Disney's *Animal World*.
2. Help students complete a chart such as the one below that tells how the special physical characteristics of crocodiles help them survive.



Special parts of a crocodile's body	How they help crocodiles to survive
"green-brown" scales	help hide (camouflage) them so they can sneak up on their prey
sharp, replaceable teeth and strong jaws for snapping shut	help them grab their prey and hold it tightly while they rip pieces loose (since their teeth are not good for chewing)
nostrils and ears that can open and close	help them stay underwater
eyes on the tops of their heads	help them watch for prey while their bodies are hidden underwater
long, strong "bendy" tail	helps them swim very quickly by moving their tail in "S"-shapes

3. Remind students that crocodiles don't need to worry about losing their adult teeth—every time they lose one, it grows back. Read them an illustrated picture book on animal teeth, such as *A Look at Teeth* by Allan Fowler (Scholastic, 1999). Then have students write or dictate fun facts on teeth. Students can draw pictures to illustrate their fun facts.

4. Print the words calf, cub, foal, and hatchling on the board, read them aloud, and have students repeat them. Ask what is similar about all of the words (they all describe baby animals). Provide the following sentence frames and have students complete them:

- A baby crocodile is called a \_\_\_\_\_. (hatchling)
- A baby zebra is called a \_\_\_\_\_. (foal)
- A baby elephant is called a \_\_\_\_\_. (calf)
- A baby lion is called a \_\_\_\_\_. (cub)

5. Have students recall that crocodiles are cold-blooded, have dry, hard scales, and lay eggs. Remind them that animals with these traits are called reptiles. Inform students that a cold-blooded creature's body can't change its own temperature. Instead, the animal must sunbathe to warm up and use cool water or shade to cool down. Provide students with copies of nature magazines such as *Ranger Rick*... Have them cut out photos of reptiles such as snakes, turtles, and lizards, and label them. Use their photos and labels to create a bulletin board display on reptiles.

6. Remind students that crocodiles sometimes slither along on their bellies when they are on land. Help students brainstorm a list of verbs that tell how different animals move, such as soar, hop, skitter, scamper, and gallop. Students can use the verbs to write simple sentences about animals in motion. Invite them to illustrate their work.



## On the DVD

### Scene Selection

The program on this DVD is divided into 5 chapters. This allows the user to enter at different points in the program.

- Chapter 1: Amazing Reptiles
- Chapter 2: Quiz Time 1
- Chapter 3: Cold-blooded Hunters
- Chapter 4: Quiz Time 2
- Chapter 5: Special Adaptations

## DVD Activities

These classroom activities, found on the DVD, include relevant short scenes from the program.

### Rhyme Time

Use the library or Internet to find poems about crocodiles. Then write your own poem. Draw a picture to go with it.

### Toothsome

How do crocodiles use their teeth? Name the similarities and differences between crocodile and human teeth. Using a mirror, look at your own teeth. Count how many you have.

## Additional Resources

### Disney Educational Productions

<http://www.Edustation.Disney.com>

This award-winning site contains additional activities and resources for use with this DVD.

### Wikipeda: Crocodiles

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crocodiles>

This site contains, facts, stats, photos, references and habitat maps.

### San Diego Zoo

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-crocodile.html>

This site includes comparisons between the two reptiles, plus photos, habitat maps, facts and information and audio links.

### Crocilian Species List

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/cnhc/csl.html>

Site has pictures and information on every crocodile and alligator species.

