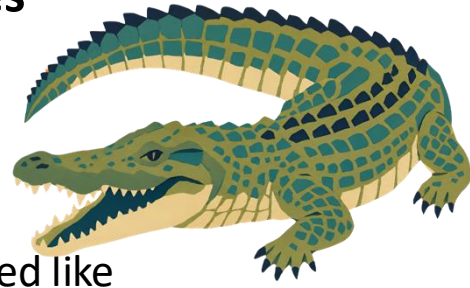


Name:

Date:

Alligators vs. Crocodiles

Alligators and crocodiles are large reptiles that can look very similar. Both have powerful tails, sharp teeth and strong jaws, but there are several ways to tell them apart.



Alligators usually have a wide, rounded snout shaped like the letter U. Crocodiles have a narrower, more pointed snout shaped more like the letter V.

Their teeth are also different. When an alligator closes its mouth, most of its lower teeth are hidden. When a crocodile closes its mouth, some of its lower teeth can still be seen.

Alligators usually prefer freshwater habitats such as lakes, rivers and swamps. Crocodiles can live in freshwater too, but many species are also able to survive in salty or partly salty water.

Both animals are excellent swimmers and use their strong tails to move through the water. They are also skilled hunters that eat fish, birds and other animals.



Although alligators and crocodiles have many similarities, their snouts, teeth and preferred habitats can help you tell them apart.

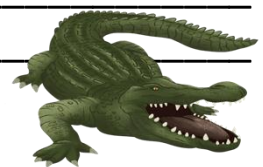
1. What is one way alligators and crocodiles are alike?

2. How are their snouts different?

3. What happens to an alligator's lower teeth when its mouth is closed?

4. How are the habitats of alligators and crocodiles different?

5. What are two ways you could tell an alligator and a crocodile apart?



Answers

1. Both have powerful tails, sharp teeth and strong jaws.
2. Alligators have wide, rounded snouts, while crocodiles have narrower, pointed snouts.
3. Most of their lower teeth are hidden.
4. Alligators usually prefer freshwater, while crocodiles can live in freshwater and salty or partly salty water.
5. You can compare the shape of their snouts and whether their lower teeth are visible when their mouths are closed.