

Crocodile

What do they look like?

Crocodiles are lizard-like in appearance with dry scaly skin and a long tail. They can grow up to 6 metres in length.

They have powerful jaws with as many as 64 knife-like teeth. They have short legs and toes that have webbing between them like a frog. Their eyes, ears and nostril lie flat on top of their head so they can stick out of the water while the rest of the crocodile's body lies underneath the water.



Habitat

Crocodiles live all over the world in the continents Africa, Asia, Australia and America.

Crocodiles can go on land but they prefer to be in the water. Some crocodiles live in oceans, some live in rivers, some live in lakes and some live in swamps.

Diet

Crocodiles are carnivores. They eat small prey like fish, birds and frogs and larger prey like antelope and zebra. A crocodile stalks their prey. This means they hide from them underwater and get slowly get closer to them. The crocodile will then jump out and grab it in its jaws.



Who hunts them?

A crocodile does not have many predators but it can be hunted by leopards and giant snakes called anacondas. Most crocodiles are killed by humans for their meat or their skin. Some people use their skin to make clothes or bags.

Family groups

Crocodiles do not live in family groups. Whilst you may see many crocodiles together lying on land they separate when they enter the water and spend most of their time alone. A mother crocodile will have between 25 and 80 eggs. The mother will stand and guard the nest until the eggs hatch. She will then look after the baby crocodiles until they are 2 years old. After that the family split up and each live alone.

Did you know crocodiles have the strongest bite of any animal in the world!