



Splashing into the scene is our friend, the American crocodile, one of the many fascinating creatures living in our world! With its long, v-shaped snout and a body covered in a suit of armor-like skin, it's a sight to behold. This cool reptile can grow up to 15 feet long, that's longer than most cars! Their skin is usually a grey-green or olive color, perfect for blending into their swampy homes.



Speaking of homes, American crocodiles have a pretty interesting choice of residence. They can be found in the sunny parts of Florida, the Caribbean, Mexico, and South America, usually near water such as rivers, coastal lagoons, and marshes. Their homes aren't just for lounging though, that's where they find their food! They prefer to dine on fish, birds, and small mammals, but aren't too picky when they're hungry.

Now, let's dive into the life cycle of these amazing reptiles. Mama crocodiles lay between 20-60 eggs in a nest and guard them for about 85 days until they hatch. When the baby crocs are born, they're only about 8 inches long but grow 1 foot per year until they're fully grown. American crocodiles can live up to 70 years, which is a pretty long time in the animal kingdom!



Now, you might be wondering how American crocodiles get along with other animals and humans. Well, they're generally not a danger to humans unless they feel threatened. They do play a big part in the ecosystem, though, by controlling the population of their prey. So, as you can see, American crocodiles are not just interesting, they're important, too. Let's keep learning and protecting these incredible creatures!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) How long can an American crocodile grow?
 - A. Up to 20 feet
 - B. Up to 10 feet
 - C. Up to 15 feet
 - D. Up to 30 feet

- 2) What role do American crocodiles play in the ecosystem?
 - A. They control the population of their prey
 - B. They clean the air
 - C. They spread seeds for plants
 - D. They contribute to soil fertility

- 3) What do American crocodiles eat?
 - A. Fish, birds, and small mammals
 - B. Seeds, nuts, and berries
 - C. Plants, fruits, and vegetables
 - D. Coral, seagrass, and algae

- 4) How long do American crocodiles live?
 - A. Up to 70 years
 - B. Up to 50 years
 - C. Up to 100 years
 - D. Up to 90 years

- 5) How long are baby crocs when they are born?
 - A. About 2 feet long
 - B. About 8 inches long
 - C. About 4 feet long
 - D. Less than 1 inch long

- 6) Where can you find American crocodiles?
 - A. Arctic, Greenland, and Scandinavia
 - B. Florida, the Caribbean, Mexico, and South America
 - C. Asia, Africa, and Antarctica
 - D. Canada, Europe, Australia, and Africa

- 7) How many eggs do mama crocodiles lay?
 - A. 5-10 eggs
 - B. 20-60 eggs
 - C. 200-300 eggs
 - D. 70-100 eggs

- 8) How long do mama crocs guard their eggs?
 - A. About 60 days
 - B. About 85 days
 - C. About 120 days
 - D. About 100 days

- 9) Are American crocodiles a danger to humans?
 - A. Only if humans come close to their nests
 - B. Yes, if they feel threatened
 - C. No, never
 - D. Only if humans invade their territory

- 10) How much do baby crocs grow each year?
 - A. 2 feet
 - B. 3 feet
 - C. 1 foot
 - D. 6 inches

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "I live in Florida near the river."



- 12) "I love the colder, icy regions. You can often find me sliding around on glaciers!"
- 13) "Did you know, we crocs have a life span of over 100 years?"
- 14) "We produce only a couple of eggs at a time, keeping it small and manageable."
- 15) "Did you know that I can grow up to 15 feet long?"
- 16) "My skin is olive colored, it helps me blend in with my swampy home."
- 17) "You'll often find me in the desert. I love the dry, sandy landscape away from water."
- 18) "I'm a vegetarian! I just gobble up leaves and water plants all day."
- 19) "When I was born, I was already 2 feet long!"
- 20) "I can live up to 70 years, that's a long time, even for a crocodile!"
- 21) "I don't lay eggs. My little ones are born all ready to go, just like mammals!"
- 22) "My mom lays around 20-60 eggs in a nest and guards them until I hatch!"
- 23) "Oh, I'm a small guy! I barely reach five feet in length."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 24) American crocodiles lay between 20 to 60 eggs, which they guard until they hatch.
- 25) It is amazing that American crocodiles can live up to 70 years!
- 26) American crocodiles make homes near water like rivers and marshes.
- 27) It is fascinating to watch American crocodiles swim gracefully in the water.
- 28) American crocodiles are mostly found in parts of America.
- 29) American crocodiles are the scariest kind of crocodile.
- 30) American crocodile babies are approximately 8 inches long when they are born.
- 31) American crocodiles can live up to 70 years.
- 32) American crocodiles are way cooler than any other reptile because they can grow up to 15 feet long.
- 33) The fact that American crocodiles guard their eggs until they hatch is kind of sweet.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 34) American crocodiles can live up to 70 years.
- 35) The American crocodile is a vegetarian and eats only plants.
- 36) Female American crocodiles lay can lay up to 60 eggs in a nest.
- 37) American crocodiles only live for 3 years.
- 38) The baby crocs are about 8 inches long when they are born.
- 39) American crocodiles can only be found in Florida.
- 40) Baby crocodile grow to 6 ft in their first year.
- 41) Female American crocodile can lay up 100 eggs.
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).



- 44) American crocodiles are more common in southern Florida.
- 45) Why are American crocodiles important to the ecosystem?
- 46) American crocodiles can stay underwater for up to an hour.
- 47) American crocodiles are excellent swimmers.
- 48) Do American crocodiles lay eggs?
- 49) What are some interesting facts about American crocodiles?



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1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> C </u> | 26. <u> fact </u> |
| 2. <u> A </u> | 27. <u> opinion </u> |
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| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> opinion </u> |
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| 8. <u> B </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> |
| 9. <u> B </u> | 34. <u> true </u> |
| 10. <u> C </u> | 35. <u> false </u> |
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| 20. <u> true </u> | 45. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 21. <u> false </u> | 46. <u> declarative </u> |
| 22. <u> true </u> | 47. <u> declarative </u> |
| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 24. <u> fact </u> | 49. <u> interrogative </u> |
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