



explore

CROCS AND GATORS! **Living Dinosaurs**

Sharlene G Coombs

**KNOWLEDGE
BOOKS**

40

Reading Recovery Level: 19

Word Count: 1480

Content: Recount, Description, Explanation.

ACARA F-10 References:

Learning Areas:

English; Humanities and Social Sciences; Science; Health and Physical Education.

General Capabilities:

Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability.

Cross Curriculum Priorities:

Sustainability

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Teacher Notes:

Crocs and gators have lived on Earth for millions of years and are considered the oldest living dinosaurs. Join the author as she discovers some fascinating facts about two of the world's most fearsome reptiles...the American Alligator and the Australian Saltwater Crocodile. Learn how to tell the difference between the two and find out which one is the fastest, the fiercest, and the most dangerous to humans.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. Why are alligators and crocodiles called "The Living Dinosaurs"?
2. Discuss and compare other apex predators with crocs and gators.
3. Discuss what it means to be "Crocodile" and "Gator Aware".

Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:

dinosaurs, imagine, reptiles, crocodilians, extinct, alligators, crocodiles, different, similar, American, Australian, saltwater, saltie, gator, mangroves, southern, freshwater, Florida, Everglades, underwater, apex, predator, habitat, webbed, separate, aggressive, dangerous, ambush, nostrils, hatchlings, threaten, endangered, Government, injuries, heroic, tourists, business, respect.

Acknowledgement of the First Nations' People:

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Contents

1. Living Dinosaurs
2. Where Crocs and Gators Live
3. How are they Similar?
4. How are they Different?
5. Ambush Hunters!
6. Are they Endangered?
7. Close Calls with Crocs!
8. Close Calls with Gators!
9. Croc and Gator Tourism





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1. Living Dinosaurs

Have you ever wondered what it must have been like when dinosaurs roamed the Earth? Imagine if you could travel back in time to 235 million years ago. You would see lots of different dinosaurs!

Some dinosaurs lived on land. Others lived in water. Some lived on land and in the water. Around this time, a special group of reptiles formed from these dinosaurs. They were called the crocodilians.





Crocodylians included different reptiles. Many of these are now extinct. Others changed slowly over millions of years.

Crocodylians changed to become alligators and crocodiles. This change happened around 87 million years ago.

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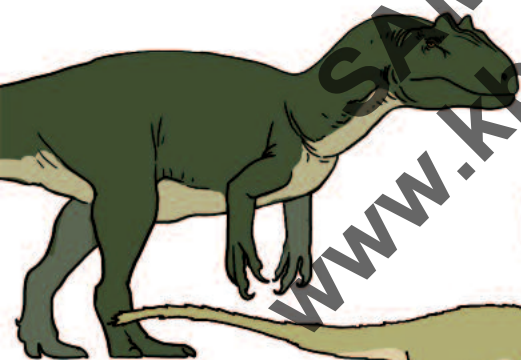
DINOSAURS

BIRDS

CROCODYLIANS

ALLIGATORS

CROCODILES



Allosaurus

Haplocheirus



Shuvuuia



The first alligators and crocodiles have not changed very much at all. You can find different types in different parts of the world. However, they all look similar.

Let's look closely at two of the biggest and meanest of them all: the American Alligator and the Australian Saltwater Crocodile.

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2. Where Crocs and Gators Live

Australia is home to some scary animals! One of the scariest of them all is the Australian Saltwater Crocodile. Aussies also call this reptile a croc or a saltie.

The Australian Salties live in the top part of Australia, called The Top End. You can find salties in swamps and in rivers where mangroves grow. They love salt water but can survive in fresh water too.

No matter where you go in Australia's Top End, you need to look out for crocs. Some have even been spotted on beaches and swimming in the ocean.



