

Name _____

The Amazing Crocodile



The crocodile is a large, powerful reptile that has been around for millions of years. It is one of the oldest animals living on Earth today. Crocodiles are known for their long, strong bodies, sharp teeth, and tough scaly skin. They live mostly in warm, freshwater areas like rivers, lakes, and swamps, but some can be found in saltwater too.

Crocodiles are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They are excellent hunters and can catch a variety of prey, such as fish, birds, and mammals. Crocodiles use their powerful jaws to catch and hold onto their food. Their teeth are not meant for chewing but for grabbing and tearing. They often swallow their food whole or in large chunks.

One of the most interesting facts about crocodiles is how they stay hidden while hunting. A crocodile can keep most of its body underwater, showing only its eyes and nose above the surface. This makes it very hard for prey to see the crocodile before it is too late.

Crocodiles are cold-blooded animals, which means they cannot make their own body heat. They rely on the sun to stay warm. You might often see crocodiles lying on riverbanks with their mouths open. This helps them stay cool, like how people sweat to cool down.

Crocodiles are also very protective parents. After the mother lays her eggs, she stays close to guard them. When the baby crocodiles hatch, she helps them get to the water safely. The young crocodiles stay with their mother for a while, learning how to survive.

Though crocodiles are powerful, they face dangers from humans. Some people hunt them for their skin, which can be used to make leather products. Others destroy their habitats. Many laws now help protect crocodiles from harm, so they can continue to thrive in the wild.