

Name _____

The Crocodile's Role in the Ecosystem

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Apex predators like crocodiles are important because they prevent prey populations from growing too large, keeping the ecosystem balanced.
2. Crocodiles help keep the food chain balanced by being both predators and prey, controlling animal numbers and supporting scavengers.
3. Without crocodiles, prey populations might grow too large, harming plants and other species, while wetlands could become blocked.
4. Crocodiles help plants by keeping water flowing and providing nutrients after death, while also helping animals by controlling prey populations.

