

COOL CROCODILES



Saltwater crocodiles can be found across a huge range, from northern Australia to eastern India and South-east Asia.

They are the largest reptile in the world, and can grow up to 6.5m long and weigh up to 1000kg.



Their powerful jaws are 45 times stronger than a human's bite and 6 times stronger than a great white shark!

Saltwater crocodiles have about 66 teeth that get replaced every 2-3 years and can go through over 3000 teeth in a lifetime!



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Saltwater Crocodiles are very powerful predators. They usually catch their prey by ambushing them from the water. They eat anything they can catch including fish, turtles, birds, reptiles and mammals.



Crocodiles do not chew their food. Instead, they rip off chunks of meat and then swallow it whole.

They have a valve at the back of their mouth that seals it off from their throat, allowing them to open their mouths underwater.



Large saltwater crocodiles can stay underwater for up to an hour because they can reduce their heart rate to 2-3 beats per minute.



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Saltwater crocodiles are ectothermic which means that their body temperature is similar to their environment. They are active when they are warm and cool down by moving into shade or water.



Crocodiles also open their mouths to help cool themselves down. This is called gaping.

Glands under their chin release a special scent which they use to recognise each other.



Crocodiles have excellent senses that they use for hunting. They have good night vision and can detect tiny vibrations in and around the water.

They also have excellent hearing and a great sense of smell to detect prey.



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Female saltwater crocodiles breed when they are about 10 years old. They build a nest of soil and leaves and lay about 50 eggs which are buried in it.



Females guard their eggs until they hatch around 90 days later.

The temperature of the nest determines the sex of the babies. Below 30°C results in females and above 32°C results in males.



When the eggs are ready to hatch, the babies start chirping and the mother digs them out of the nest. Only 1 out of 100 young crocodiles survive because many are eaten by predators.



QUICK QUIZ



1. TAKE A GUESS

How fast can saltwater crocodiles run?

- a) 4km/hr b) 14km/hr c) 40km/hr



2. TRUE OR FALSE?

Crocodiles swallow stones to help grind up their food in their stomachs.



3. TAKE A GUESS

How long can crocodiles live for?

- a) 20 b) 40 c) 60 d) 80 years



4. TRUE OR FALSE?

Saltwater crocodiles can go without eating for long periods of time. A large meal can last them for a few months.

