



ALLiGATOR ACTIVITY BOOK

FUN FACTS, PUZZLES AND GAMES ABOUT
FLORIDA'S STATE REPTILE!



Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services

ALLIGATOR FACTS:

- 1** The American alligator and dinosaurs are cousins. Both alligators and dinosaurs descended from a common ancestor more than 200 million years ago.
- 2** An alligator can live in fresh or brackish water (a mix of fresh and salt water). This includes canals, lakes, marshes, swamps, rivers, creeks and ponds.
- 3** An alligator has five toes on its front feet and four webbed toes on its back feet which help it swim.
- 4** An alligator can live for more than 50 years in captivity. The oldest alligator in captivity is over 76 years old and lives in a zoo in Siberia.
- 5** An alligator mainly eats fish, turtles, various mammals, birds and other reptiles.
- 6** There are around 1.2 million alligators in Florida.
- 7** A female alligator can lay up to 50 eggs at a time.
- 8** The American alligator is the official State Reptile of Florida.
- 9** An alligator has roughly 80 teeth in its mouth at one time. As the teeth wear down they are replaced with new teeth. An average alligator can go through 2,000 to 3,000 teeth in a lifetime.
- 10** An adult male alligator can grow as large as 14 feet and weight more than 1,000 pounds.
- 11** Alligators bask in the sun to keep warm.
- 12** There are differences between alligators and crocodiles. Most noticeably, when an alligator's mouth is closed you cannot see its teeth; when a crocodile's mouth is closed the fourth tooth on its lower jaw sticks out.
- 13** An alligator can rip and swallow its food but it cannot chew.
- 14** An alligator can stay underwater without air for more than two hours.
- 15** **Never approach or feed an alligator.** Feeding alligators makes them lose their fear of humans. Feeding an alligator is against the law.

GATOR GALLERY



Baby American alligators, showing the distinctive yellow stripes found on young alligators.

Wikipedia.org



An alligator capturing a frog.

Credit: Andrea Westmoreland, Wikipedia.org.



A female alligator guards her eggs in the nest she built from vegetation.

State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory



Male alligators bellow during the spring to attract females and to warn away other males.

State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.com



A large male alligator basking in the sun.



A close look at an alligator in Florida's Gatorland.

Wikipedia.org

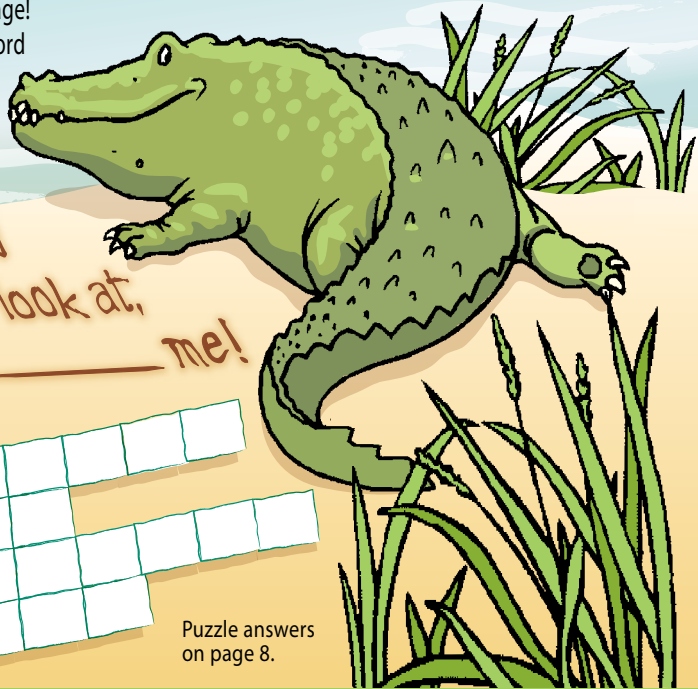


Alligators can leap upward from the water to capture food.

MESSAGE in the MUD!

The alligator has written a message in the mud on this riverbank, but he wants **you** to **guess one word** of the message!

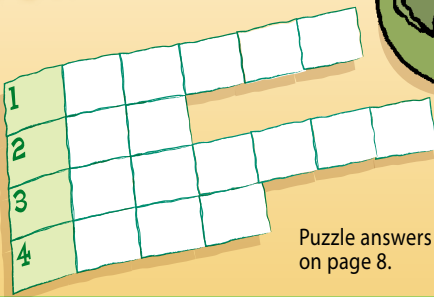
Guess **another** word for each word in the list of **clues**, and the **letters** in the **green boxes** will give you the **missing word** of the message!



I may be fun and interesting to look at, but don't ever _____ me!

CLUES:

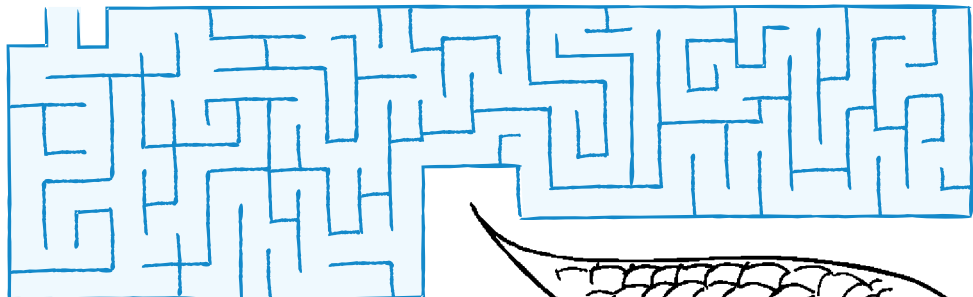
- 1 Blossom
- 2 Fairy
- 3 Green
- 4 Sunrise



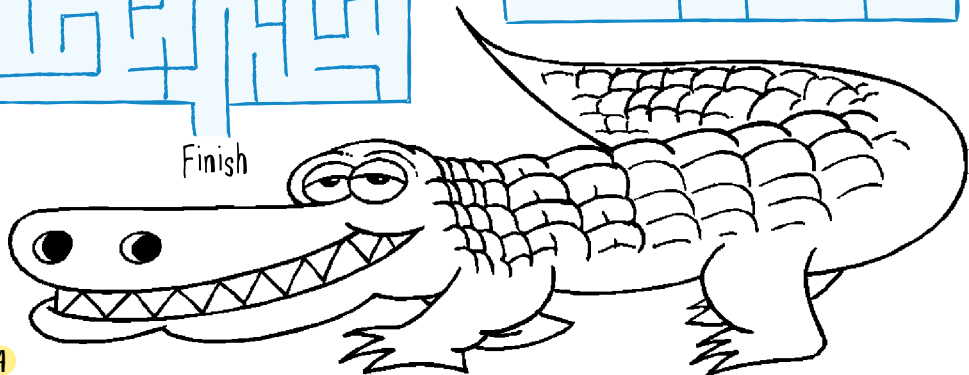
Puzzle answers on page 8.

Find your way through the Puzzle, then COLOR ME!

Start



Finish



ALLIGATOR

WORD FIND

Can you find the words below **HIDDEN** in the **Puzzle**?

Bite

Reptile

Eggs

Swamp

Nest

Teeth

Alligator

Bask

Lake

Jaw

H	E	B	G	I	E	G	G	S	P
D	A	F	O	M	K	E	P	B	U
G	L	E	L	A	K	E	A	I	L
S	L	A	M	P	R	I	R	T	E
N	I	D	O	Y	E	V	E	E	T
B	G	E	S	W	A	M	P	K	R
A	A	M	N	A	S	K	T	E	N
S	T	E	E	T	H	R	I	I	J
K	O	S	S	R	E	M	L	O	A
I	R	K	T	E	E	T	E	R	W

Puzzle answers on page 8.

Alligator Word Scramble

Can you unscramble the color words below to fill in the blanks?

litpsere revsri rtluets wolswla kbsa hetet

Alligators are _____ and like to live in _____, lakes and swamps. They eat mainly fish, _____, and some mammals. They can rip and _____ their food but not chew. Alligators _____ in the sun to keep warm. An alligator has about 80 _____ that are replaced as they wear down.

This young alligator is **LOST** in the **SWAMP!** Can you help him find the way **HOME** and go around the dangers?



Danger!
Quicksand
Pit!

Look Out!
Great
Blue
Heron!

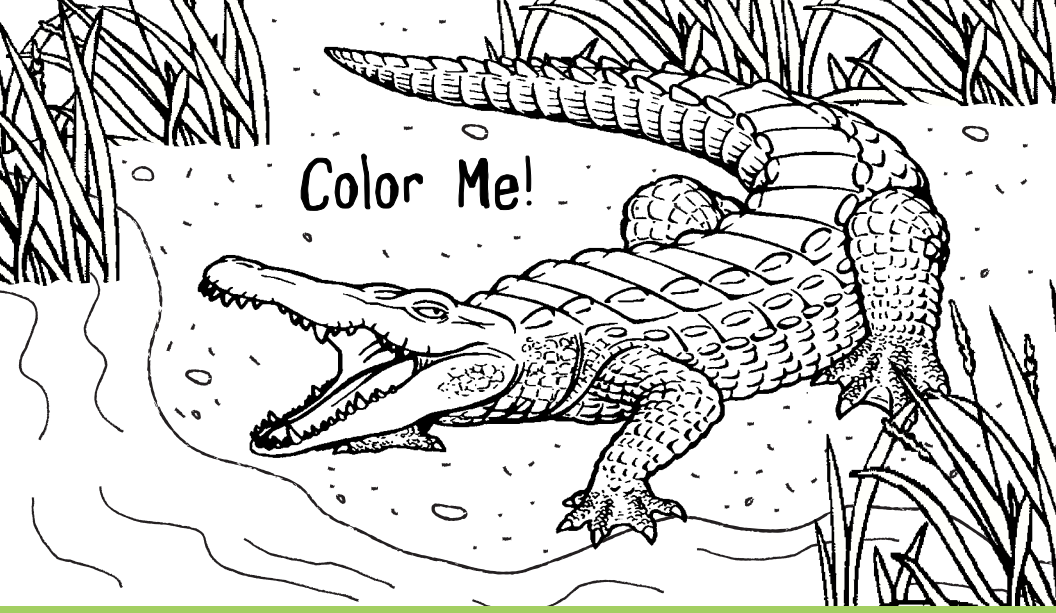
Go Back!
Snapping
Turtle!

Danger!
Large
Alligator!

Whirlpool!

Beware!
Large
Snake!

HOME!



Color Me!

Can you Match the Words?



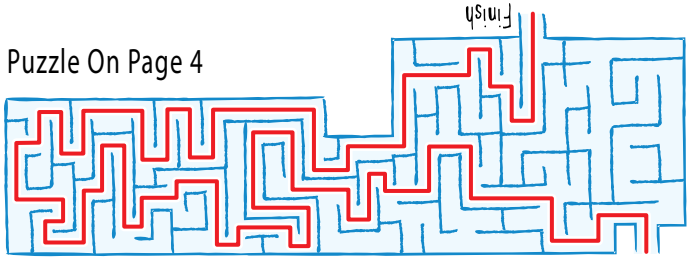
Match the right word to the correct answer! Write the **LETTER** of the word on the line next to the **ANSWER** you think is correct!

- A:** Chew
- B:** Reptiles
- C:** Diet
- D:** Webbed
- E:** Feet
- F:** Bask
- G:** Dinosaurs
- H:** Underwater
- I:** Brackish
- J:** Humans

- _____ An alligator can live in fresh and **this** kind of water.
- _____ An alligator's back feet are **this**.
- _____ For up to two hours an alligator can stay **here**.
- _____ Alligators are cousins of **these**.
- _____ Fish, turtles, various mammals and birds are some of **this** for an alligator.
- _____ Alligators can't do **this** to their food.
- _____ **This** is what alligators like to do when the sun is shining.
- _____ Feeding alligators can make them lose fear of **these**.
- _____ An adult male alligator can be up to 14 of **these**.
- _____ An alligator is one kind of **these**.

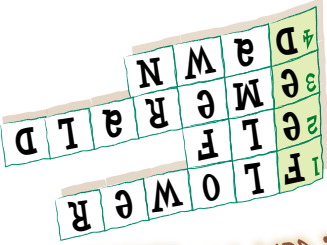
Puzzle Answers

Puzzle On Page 4



Start

Message in the MUD, page 4



I may be fun and interesting to look at, but don't ever feed me!

Swamp Maze, Page 6



Alligator Word Match, page 7

CLUES:

- 1 Blossom
- 2 Fairy
- 3 Green
- 4 Sunrise

- A: Chew
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- C: Diet
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- E: Feet
- F: Bask
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I An alligator can live in fresh and **this** kind of water.

D An alligator's back feet are **this**.

H For up to two hours an alligator can stay **here**.

G Alligators are cousins of **these**.

C Fish, turtles, various mammals and birds are some of **this** for an alligator.

A Alligators can't do **this** to their food.

F **This** is what alligators like to do when the sun is shining.

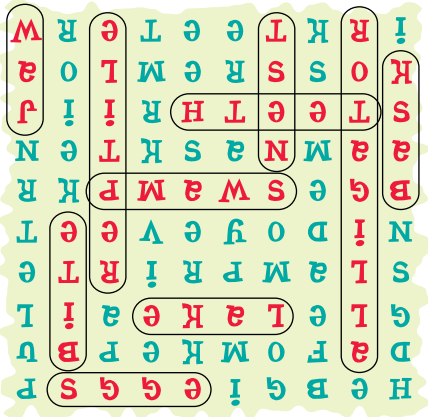
J Feeding alligators can make them lose fear of **these**.

E An adult male alligator can be up to 14 of **these**.

B An alligator is one kind of **these**.

tetet
teeth
bask
teeth
swallow
bask
teeth
bask
teeth
swallow
bask
teeth
swallow
bask
teeth

Alligator Word Find, page 5



Alligator Word Scramble, page 5

www.Florida-Alligator.com