

DISCOVER
our AMAZING
WORLD
CLIL READERS

Alligators

Virginia Evans
Jenny Dooley

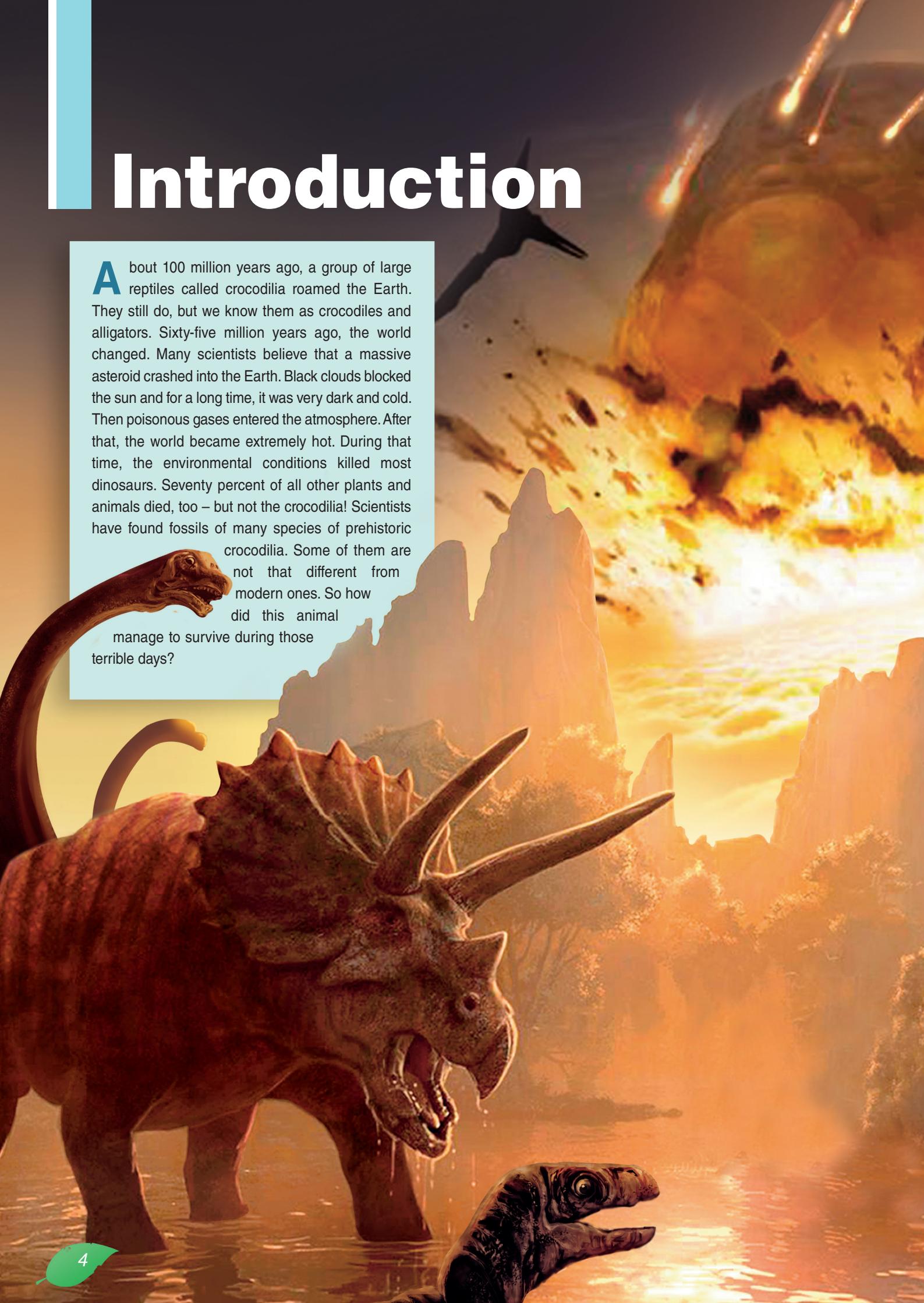


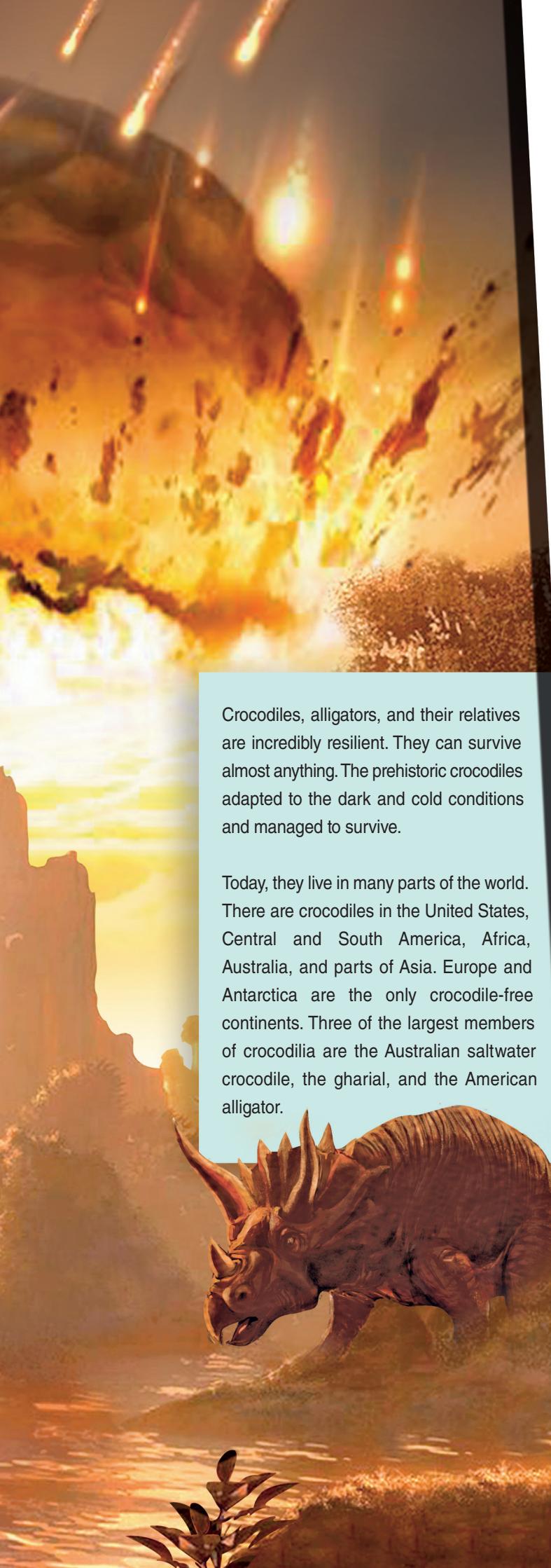
Express Publishing

Introduction

About 100 million years ago, a group of large reptiles called crocodilia roamed the Earth. They still do, but we know them as crocodiles and alligators. Sixty-five million years ago, the world changed. Many scientists believe that a massive asteroid crashed into the Earth. Black clouds blocked the sun and for a long time, it was very dark and cold. Then poisonous gases entered the atmosphere. After that, the world became extremely hot. During that time, the environmental conditions killed most dinosaurs. Seventy percent of all other plants and animals died, too – but not the crocodilia! Scientists have found fossils of many species of prehistoric crocodilia. Some of them are not that different from modern ones. So how did this animal

manage to survive during those terrible days?





Crocodiles, alligators, and their relatives are incredibly resilient. They can survive almost anything. The prehistoric crocodiles adapted to the dark and cold conditions and managed to survive.

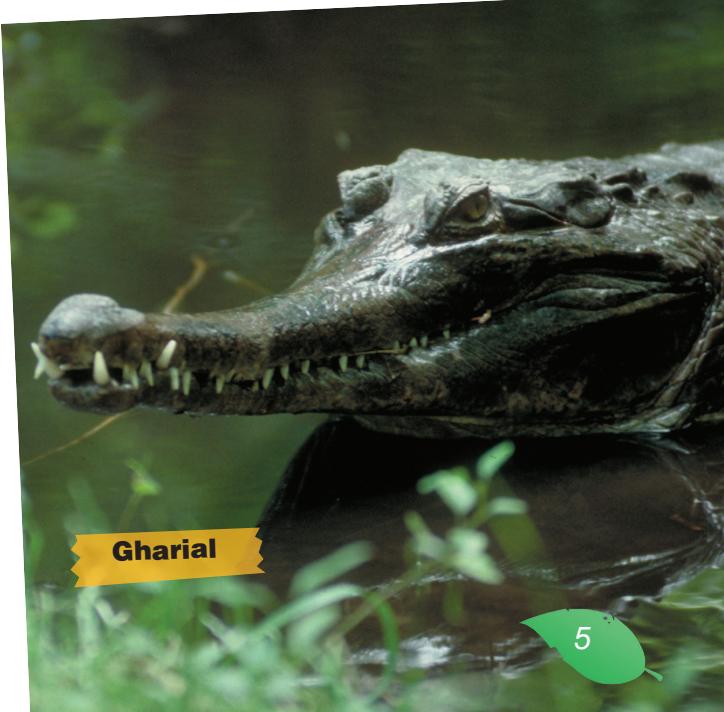
Today, they live in many parts of the world. There are crocodiles in the United States, Central and South America, Africa, Australia, and parts of Asia. Europe and Antarctica are the only crocodile-free continents. Three of the largest members of crocodilia are the Australian saltwater crocodile, the gharial, and the American alligator.



Saltwater crocodile



American alligator



Gharial

Myths



THE HUNTER AND THE ALLIGATOR

A long time ago there was a Native American hunter who was very unlucky. The other hunters in his village were always able to bring home deer, but he always had bad luck.

He was strong and fit and he knew the forest very well, but every time he came close to killing a deer, something bad would happen. A bird would cry out and frighten the deer away, he would step on a twig and disturb the deer, or his arrow would somehow be blown off course by the wind and miss the deer. It didn't matter what he did, he just couldn't manage to kill a deer.

One day, the hunter decided to go deep into the swamps to kill a deer. He was determined to bring one back to his village or die trying. He hunted for three whole days but still had no luck.

On the fourth day, he came across a part of the swamp that had dried out. Where there was once a deep pool of water, there was now nothing but a sandy pit. At the bottom of it was an alligator. He was weak from thirst and his skin was so dry, he looked close to death.

"I thought I was having bad luck, Alligator, but it seems you are having worse luck than me," said the hunter.

"Is there any water nearby?" asked the alligator.

"Yes," replied the hunter. "There is a clear pool of cool water just beyond those trees. If you go there, you will survive," he said.

"I can't move by myself," said the alligator. "Will you help me? If you do, I will help you. I will give you the power to kill as many deer as you want."

The hunter agreed right away, as long as he could tie the alligator's jaws to protect himself. The alligator agreed. The hunter carried the alligator on his shoulders to the pool of cool water, put him down, and untied his jaws. The alligator dove into the pool and swam around. When he felt better he came back to the hunter.

"You have kept your word and so I will keep mine," said the alligator. "Here is what you must do. Go into the woods with your bow and arrows. You will meet a small doe. She has not yet grown enough to have young. Do not kill her. Greet her and move on and your power as a hunter will increase. Then you will meet a large doe. She has fawns and will continue to have more young each year. Do not kill her. Greet her and move on and you will be an even greater hunter. Next, you will meet a small buck. That buck will father many young. Do not kill him. Greet him and move on and your power as a hunter will become greater still. At last you will meet an old buck, bigger than all the rest. His time on Earth has been useful and now he is ready to give himself to you. Go close to that deer and shoot it. Then greet it and thank it for giving itself to you. Do this and you will be the greatest hunter ever."

The hunter did exactly what the alligator said and he became the greatest hunter in his village. He told the story to his people and as long as they

remembered to follow the alligator's advice, they were never hungry.

Home, Sweet Home

Word Bank

(pp. 18-19)

cozy (adj) = warm and comfortable

marshland (n) = wet muddy ground

depend (on) (v) = to be affected by

dig (v) = to make a hole in the ground

burrow (n) = a hole under the ground that is the home of an animal

muddy (adj) = covered by a mix of soil and water

riverbank (n) = raised land on the side of a river

underground (adv) = below the surface of the earth

occupy (v) = to live or stay somewhere

throughout (prep) = during all of a period of time

extensive (adj) = covering a large area of land

share (v) = to have sth with sb else

complicated (adj) = not simple; made up of many different parts

typically (adv) = usually

tunnel (n) = a long underground passage

lead (to) (v) = (of a door, road, etc.) to serve as the way to get from one place to another

chamber (n) = closed space inside sth else

entrance (n) = the place where you go into a place

a series of (phr) = a number of (things one after the other)

permanent (adj) = always present; lasting forever

hiding spot (phr) = a place where sb or sth cannot be seen or found

protection (n) = the prevention of sb or sth being harmed by sb or sth else

gender (n) = the fact of being male or female

for sure (phr) = without any doubt

gator hole (phr) = an alligator burrow

essential (adj) = very important

landscape (n) = the appearance and features of the land

drought (n) = a long period with little or no rain

comfortable (adj) = (of a place) pleasant to stay/live in

benefit (v) = to help or be useful to sb or sth

ecosystem (n) = all the living organisms (animals, plants, etc.) and the non-living things (air, water, etc.) of a particular environment

uncommon (adj) = rare; not happening often

aquatic animal (n) = a creature that lives in water

Pre-Reading activities

- 1 a) Which of the following sentences do you think are *T* (true) or *F* (false)?

- 1 Alligators stay in their burrows all through the spring.
- 2 A burrow is less than 30 feet long.
- 3 Chinese alligators' burrows have a series of chambers.
- 4 Burrows remain dry throughout the whole year.
- 5 Chinese alligators live in "gator holes" during a drought.

b) Listen, read, and check.

While-Reading activities

- 2 Read and choose the best answer, A or B.

- 1 Why do alligators need burrows?
A to have a warm dry place to spend the summer
B to stay warm in the winter and hide from people
- 2 Why do older alligators have larger burrows?
A Because alligators use the same burrows throughout their lives.
B Because older alligators share with their babies.
- 3 Which one builds more complex burrows: American or Chinese alligators?
A Both the American and Chinese alligators build complex burrows.
B Chinese alligators build more complex burrows.
- 4 How does a gator hole benefit the alligator during a drought?
A The gator hole stays wet so the alligator is comfortable.
B The gator hole gives the alligator a warm dry place to hide.
- 5 How does a gator hole benefit other animals?
A Gator holes provide them with a food source.
B Other animals can occupy the gator holes during droughts.

3 **SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY:** Fill in: *gator holes, burrows, marshlands, ecosystem, landscape.*

- 1 The behavior of alligators can change the appearance of the
- 2 Scientists think some dinosaurs lived in underground just like alligators.
- 3 are often drained to use for farming or building.
- 4 Even if the swamp dries out, usually still contain water.
- 5 Alligators are a very important part of the

4 **Fill in:** *depends, dig, occupied, share, leading, benefit.*

- 1 We saw a trail to the gator hole.
- 2 This is an old burrow; I'm sure it's not
- 3 In warm areas, alligators do not need to burrows.
- 4 Fish from gator holes because they can survive the dry season there.
- 5 Male alligators do not typically their burrows with their babies.
- 6 The type of homes that alligators make on the temperature of the area where they are found.

5 **Replace the words/phrases in bold in the sentences below with:** *throughout, cozy, underground, uncommon, typically, for sure.*

- 1 A burrow **usually** has a long passageway with a large chamber at the end.
- 2 The alligator rested in his burrow **for all of** the winter.
- 3 Burrows stay warm in winter since they are **below the surface of the Earth.**
- 4 Nobody knows **exactly** how many Chinese alligators live in the wild.
- 5 It is **unusual** for adult alligators to share one burrow.
- 6 A burrow is a **warm and safe** place in the wintertime.

6 Replace the words in bold with: *riverbanks, gender, aquatic animals, protection, chambers.*

- 1 Some Chinese alligators use their burrows for **this**.
- 2 The number of chambers in a burrow may be related to **this**.
- 3 Alligator burrows are usually found in **these**.
- 4 A burrow consists of many **of these**.
- 5 **These** often live in gator holes during droughts.

After-Reading activities

7 From the chapter, which of the following CAN be inferred about alligators?

- A They do not harm the fish in gator holes.
- B They cannot survive in cold climates.
- C Those that make gator holes do not make burrows.
- D They need water to live comfortably.

8 From the chapter, which of the following CANNOT be inferred about alligators?

- A Alligator burrows are all the same.
- B Some alligators do not live in burrows.
- C Some alligators use their burrows in the summer.
- D Alligators sometimes live with other alligators.

9 Fill in: *marshlands, dig, aquatic animals, entrance, drought, burrows, ecosystem, permanent, gator holes, complicated, essential.*

Chinese alligators make 1) to keep warm in the winter, and to hide from people during the day. They 2) long, 3) burrows with more than one 4) The burrows have large chambers. Some chambers have 5) pools of water inside so the alligators can swim without leaving their hiding place.

American alligators sometimes dig burrows too, but they also make 6) in the 7) They make holes in the mud that fill with water and stay wet all year. Gator holes provide a place for 8) to live in times of 9) , so they are 10) not only for the alligators but also for the 11)

Review

Listening Activities

- 1 Listen to a dialogue about alligators. For questions 1-4, choose the correct answer, A, B, C, or D.

- 1 What are the speakers mainly discussing?
 - A the benefits of V- and U-shaped snouts
 - B how to tell which family an alligator belongs to
 - C the differences between alligators and crocodiles
 - D why crocodiles have visible teeth
- 2 How does the man respond when the woman shows him the picture of the animal?
 - A with shock
 - B with interest
 - C with disgust
 - D with boredom
- 3 Why does the woman say: "What? You've lost me."?
 - A to indicate her confusion
 - B to ask the man to repeat something
 - C to say that the man is incorrect
 - D to show she is unhappy
- 4 According to the man, what do alligators and crocodiles have in common?
 - A They belong to the same order.
 - B They have triangular snouts.
 - C Their teeth are the same size.
 - D Their lower teeth are visible.



2

Listen to a professor giving a talk about alligators. For questions 1-4, choose the correct answer, A, B, C, or D.

- 1 What is the main topic of the talk?
 - A how alligators survive in the winter
 - B places where alligators often live
 - C why people liked alligators as pets
 - D an interesting story about alligators
- 2 Why does the professor say this: "Now, let me tell you a story ... you can put your pencils down for now."?
 - A to suggest that the students need to listen more carefully
 - B to indicate that students do not need to take notes
 - C to imply that she is not the original author of the story
 - D to point out that she has already discussed the topic before
- 3 According to the professor, what is one reason why alligators cannot live in sewers?
 - A Sewers are too small.
 - B Sewers are too dirty.
 - C There is not enough food.
 - D There is not enough water.
- 4 How does the professor organize her lecture?
 - A by defining a term and explaining it in detail
 - B by reviewing a concept and giving an example of it
 - C by presenting an idea and saying why it is unlikely
 - D by telling a story and giving her opinion of it



Amazing Facts

Did you know?



On average, only a third of
8) will survive to adulthood.

Some turtles will lay their eggs in alligator nests to be
9) and protected by the mother alligator.



American alligators have become a tourist attraction in the southern United States. There are alligator farms, exhibits, and even theme parks that 10) this interesting animal.

- 1 Fill in: gravity, incubated, captivity, bacteria, showcase, hatchlings, tongues, rate, force, distances, glow, venomous, trance, reflection.

2 Listen and check.

- 3 ICT Do some more research. With a partner, find out more about alligators and prepare a quiz for your classmates.

If an alligator is rolled onto its back, its heart
1) will slow down and it will go into a 2) -like state.

Alligators have a bite

3) of over 2,000 pounds per square inch!



Alligators, on average, live to be about 50 years old in the wild. In 5) they can live to be much older. There is one American alligator living in a zoo in Florida who is over 80 years old!

Alligators can see very well, even at night! They have a special structure within their eyes that enhances light
6) This also makes their eyes appear to 7) reddish-orange when reflecting light at night.

Alligators are not

11) However, people who are bitten by alligators often get infections. These infections come from the 12) found in an alligator's mouth.

Alligators can't move their

13) They have to throw their heads back to eat their food; they use 14) to move the food from their mouths to their throats.

Alligators

Uncover the amazing world of alligators and find out why they face an uncertain future.

Learn about the lifecycle of these animals through captivating images, engaging stories and interesting facts.

Components

- Reader
- Multi-ROM

DIGI MATERIAL

cross-platform application
(iOS, Android, Windows, MacOSX)



Express Publishing

ISBN 978-1-4715-1562-0



9 781471 515620