

DISCOVER
our AMAZING
WORLD

CLIL READERS

Saltwater Crocodiles

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Reptiles

Minimum effort, maximum efficiency

Reptiles are a huge, ancient and diverse group of animals. They evolved over 300 million years ago, and were some of the first animals that lived on land. They existed before birds, mammals and even the dinosaurs.

A crocodile is shown leaping out of a body of water, creating a large splash. In the foreground, a monitor lizard is resting on a sandy bank next to some green ferns. The background features a bright blue sky and a calm body of water.

Early reptiles adapted to life on land by developing dry scaly skin to prevent their bodies from drying out. Like their ancestors, reptiles are cold-blooded and rely on the sun to warm their bodies, so they cannot survive in a cold place like Antarctica. However, they do have an advantage over mammals. Their bodily processes, or metabolism, can work with less food, water, or oxygen. For this reason, reptiles can live in inhospitable places like deserts and aquatic reptiles can stay underwater for a long time without air.



Most reptiles are carnivorous, which means they eat other animals. However, reptiles eat less than warm-blooded animals, because they do not have to use energy keeping their bodies at the right temperature. In order to conserve energy, most reptiles do not chase their prey, but “sit and wait” to catch it. For this reason, they are often highly-camouflaged, and their bodies are low to the ground. This is where the word “reptile” comes from: the Latin word for “crawling”.

There are four main groups of reptiles, called *orders*. These are the lizards and snakes, the tuatara, the turtles and the crocodilians.

Two Aboriginal Myths

The Dreamtime

The myths of the Aboriginal Australians make links between the shape of their land and the shape of the animals that live on it. They believe both came into being during the Dreamtime, when creator spirits moved around Australia, forming the landscape with their massive bodies. The story of the Ginga shows how the Kakadu people have connected the hard, ridged skin of the saltwater crocodile and the hard, ridged features of Australia's Northern Territory, where it lives.



THE GINGA

Ginga was one of the original creator spirits. During the Dreamtime, he had the shape of something like a man. He walked across Australia, which at that time was flat and unformed. There were very few geographical features – just some trees and rivers on the boring landscape.

When evening came, Ginga reached a billabong and sat down next to it. Although the days are hot in Australia, the nights can be cold! Ginga shivered, and gathered some branches from the trees and built a fire. Soon he was warm. He began to feel sleepy. Then, he lay down, and dozed off.

But as Ginga slept, he rolled over and over, each time getting closer and closer to the fire. In fact, he was so deeply asleep, he didn't wake up, even when the heat made the skin on his back break out in large blisters. At last, he did wake up - and was instantly in terrible pain! Ginga ran around, desperate to soothe the agony. Then he saw the billabong and jumped in. The relief from the cool water was immediate. The blisters on his back healed, but not completely. Ginga's back remained covered in bumps and lumps. As of that moment, Ginga became the spirit of the saltwater crocodile – which spends its days cooling itself in rivers and lakes, occasionally showing the ridges of its scarred back.

Ginga's job was not finished. Later, he crawled out of the billabong and moved through the land, his belly and snout carving out the rivers of the Kakadu region. Eventually he stopped and became part of the land. His enormous body can be seen in the area's long rocky ridges. Since then, Ginga has been an important totem animal for the Aboriginal people who live there, and also their word for the saltwater crocodile. For thousands of years they have painted pictures of him on the rocks and caves of the Kakadu National Park.

Two Aboriginal Myths: The Ginga

Word Bank

(pp. 28-29)

Aboriginal Australian (n) = one of the first inhabitants of Australia or sb related to them

make links (between ... and) (phr) = to connect sb/sth with sb/sth else

come into being (phr) = to start to exist

creator spirit (n) = a supernatural being associated with the creation of the world

landscape (n) = the shape and appearance of an area of land

massive (adj) = very big

ridged (adj) = having long raised lines

feature (n) = characteristic


flat (adj) = smooth; level

unformed (adj) = not developed

geographical features (phr) = the mountains, rivers, lakes, etc. of a place

boring (adj) = dull; uninteresting

shiver (v) = to shake slightly from cold or fear

branch (n) = 

build a fire (phr) = to put wood together and set it alight

doze off (phr v) = to fall asleep

roll (over) (v) = to move by turning over and over

blister (n) = (usu after a burn) a swelling on the skin in which there is a clear liquid

desperate (adj) = wanting to do sth very much

soothe the agony (phr) = to stop suffering/feeling the pain

relief (n) = the reduction of pain

immediate (adj) = instant; done at once

heal (v) = to become healthy again

bump (n) = a raised area

lump (n) = a swelling in the body

scarred (adj) = having (a) mark(s) caused by an injury

back (n) = the upper side of an animal's body

crawl (v) = to move slowly

belly (n) = stomach

carve (out) (v) = to cut shapes into a surface

eventually (adv) = finally

enormous (adj) = very big

rocky (adj) = full of rocks


ridge (n) = the long narrow part of a mountain

totem animal (n) = an animal that is of religious importance to sb

cave (n) = a large hole in the side of a hill or a mountain or under the ground

Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Decide which is the correct answer from A or B.

- The Dreamtime is a period of the Aboriginal Australian
A history. B mythology.
 - Aboriginal Australians believe that during the Dreamtime the
A natural environment took shape.
B creator spirits came into being.
 - The myth of the Ginga is about in Australia's Northern Territory.
A the origins of the Kakadu people
B the formation of the natural environment
- b)  Listen, read, and check.

While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

- Ginga was originally a
A human being. B creator spirit.
- When Ginga walked across Australia,
A the region was quite empty. B it was really cold.
- Ginga's back broke out in blisters because
A he made the fire too hot.
B he moved too close to the fire.
- Once Ginga cooled himself in the billabong,
A his body started to change. B he remained in terrible pain.
- When Ginga crawled out of the billabong,
A he had become the first saltwater crocodile.
B his enormous body turned into a long ridge.
- In the end, Ginga
A became part of the landscape.
B became the Aboriginal word for totem.

3 Choose the best heading (A, B, or C) for each paragraph.

Paragraph 1:

- A What Australia originally looked like
- B The life of Ginga as a man
- C How Ginga managed to walk across Australia

Paragraph 2:

- A The climate in Australia
- B How Ginga spent his evening
- C How to build a fire

Paragraph 3:

- A How Ginga turned into a crocodile
- B How Ginga spends his days
- C How Ginga managed to put out the fire

Paragraph 4:

- A The pictures on the rocks and caves in the Kakadu National Park
- B The totem animals for the Aboriginal people in the Kakadu region
- C How the Kakadu region was formed by Ginga

4 **SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY:** Fill in:
skin, features (x2), back, spirit, relief.

- 1 Aboriginal Australians believe that the crocodile's ridged exists because fire burnt Ginga's back.
- 2 When Ginga was on his side facing away from the fire, the fire burnt him so badly that it left him with a scarred
- 3 The water in the billabong gave Ginga such immediate that he stopped feeling pain.
- 4 The Kakadu people believe that the hard, ridged of Northern Australia were created by Ginga.
- 5 Aboriginal Australians believe that a creator is connected with every one of the animals in Australia.
- 6 One of the many geographical in which saltwater crocodiles live is the billabong.

5 Choose the correct particle.

- 1 The fire was so warm and Ginga was so sleepy that he started to doze **off/on**.
- 2 Ginga rolled **around/over**, closer and closer to the fire.
- 3 The heat from the fire made Ginga's back suddenly break **away/out** in blisters.
- 4 When Ginga began to carve **out/on** the landscape he cut the ground so that hills and mountains were created.
- 5 Many of the plants and animals came **on/into** being during the Dreamtime.

After-Reading activities

6 a) Read the story and take notes.

PLACE

CHARACTER(S)

EVENTS

**CLIMAX
EVENT**

**END OF STORY/
FEELINGS**

b) Use your notes from Ex. 6a to give the class a summary of the story.

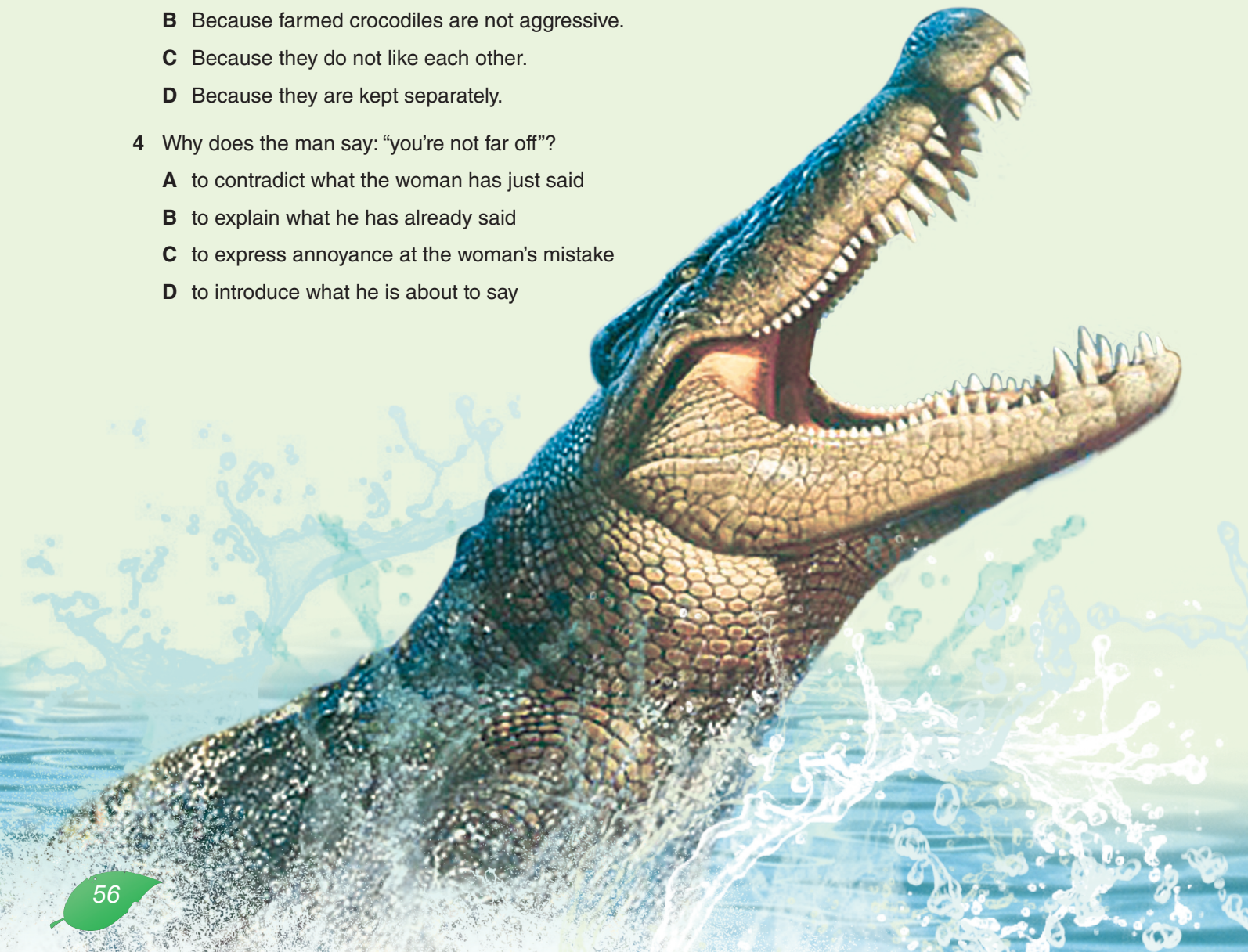
7 **ICT** Look up information on the Internet about the importance of the saltwater crocodile for Aboriginal Australians. Present it to the class.

Review

Listening Activities

1 Listen to a dialogue about saltwater crocodiles. For questions 1-4 choose the correct answer.

- 1 What are the speakers mainly discussing?
 - A a way to keep the saltwater crocodile off the endangered species list
 - B the importance of raising saltwater crocodiles
 - C which types of saltwater crocodiles are aggressive and which are not
 - D why saltwater crocodiles cannot be kept as pets
- 2 At first, how does the woman react to hearing that crocodiles are bred in captivity?
 - A in a positive way
 - B with anger
 - C with scepticism
 - D with disgust
- 3 Why wouldn't aggressive and non-aggressive crocodiles mate with each other in the farm?
 - A Because the aggressive ones have escaped.
 - B Because farmed crocodiles are not aggressive.
 - C Because they do not like each other.
 - D Because they are kept separately.
- 4 Why does the man say: "you're not far off"?
 - A to contradict what the woman has just said
 - B to explain what he has already said
 - C to express annoyance at the woman's mistake
 - D to introduce what he is about to say



Amazing Facts

Did you know?

The Asian elephant is the only animal living within the saltwater crocodile's
4) that it does not eat!

A herpetologist studies
1) like lizards and amphibians such as frogs.

A crocodile called "Elvis", which was kept in a zoo, once got so angry with keepers cutting the grass in his
2) that he stole their lawn mower and tried to drown his
3) ".....".

Salties may have a powerful bite but the muscles that open their
5) are quite weak. A person could hold a saltwater crocodile's mouth shut with just their hands.



Crocodiles never run out of
6) and if they lose any, then another one will replace it. In fact, a single crocodile might lose up to 3000 teeth during their life.

Lying with their
7) open helps crocodiles release heat.

Reptiles have smaller brains than
8)



Crocodiles raised on
9) can grow to be almost 5 ft within one year.

The 10) of a crocodile can be strong enough to stop arrows and spears.

1 a) Fill in the blanks. Use: range, scales, gastroliths, mammals, farms, teeth, enclosure, mouths, jaws, researchers, prey, reptiles.

b) Listen and check.

2 **ICT** In groups, collect facts about saltwater crocodiles. Prepare a Yes/No quiz for your classmates.

11) help them digest their food. However, according to some 12) Text, the weight of the stones may help them keep their balance in the water.



Saltwater Crocodiles

Get up close to the world's biggest and fiercest reptile: the deadly saltwater crocodile! Through thrilling images, extraordinary stories and astounding facts, you will learn all about these remarkable animals, from how they feed, to how they breed – and also their mixed relationship with humans ...

Components

- Reader
- Multi-ROM Teacher's

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