

Australia's Crocodiles



Aim

- To learn about the two types crocodiles found in Australia.
- To compare the two types of crocodiles by listing the simple facts side by side.

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes explored using this resource in relation to the EYLF:

- Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world:
 - Children use play to investigate, project and explore new ideas.

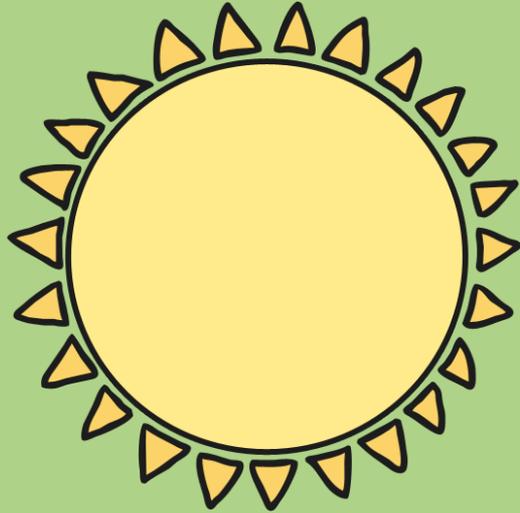
Freshwater and Saltwater Crocodiles

There are many similarities between saltwater and freshwater crocodiles.



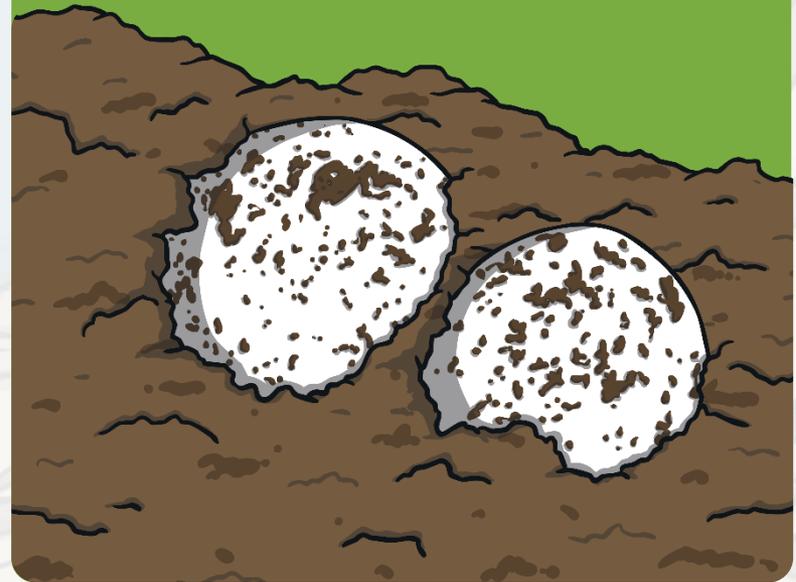
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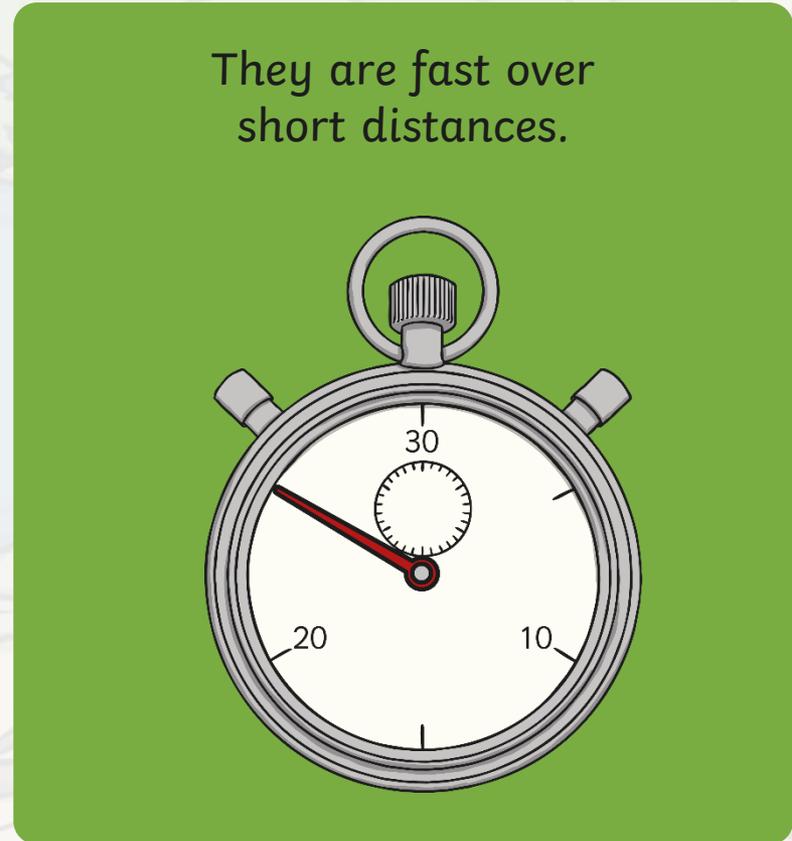
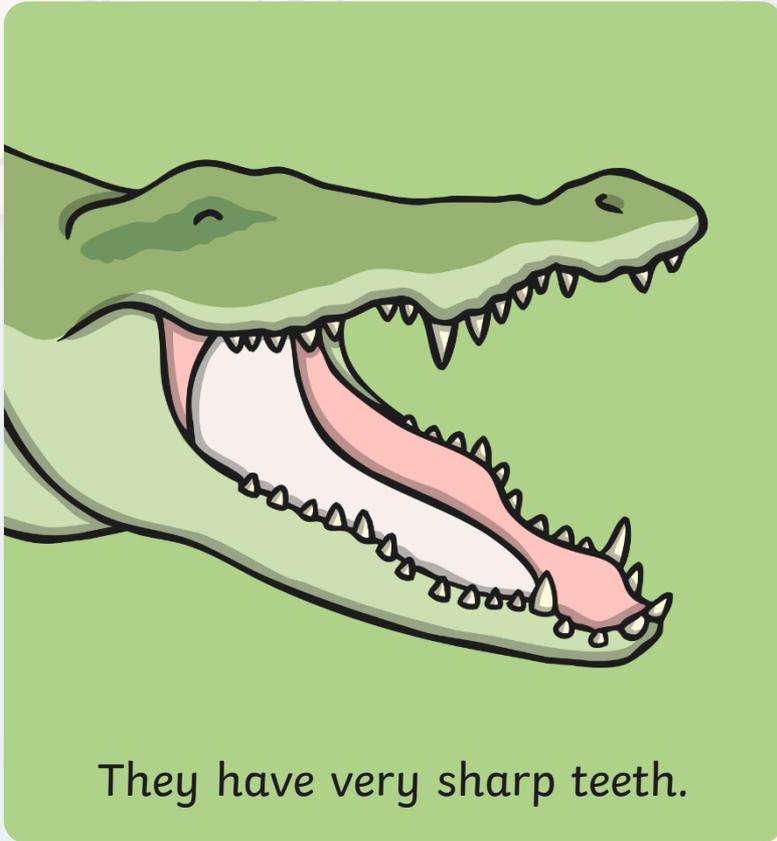
They are cold-blooded reptiles that use the sun to warm up their body temperature.

They lay eggs.



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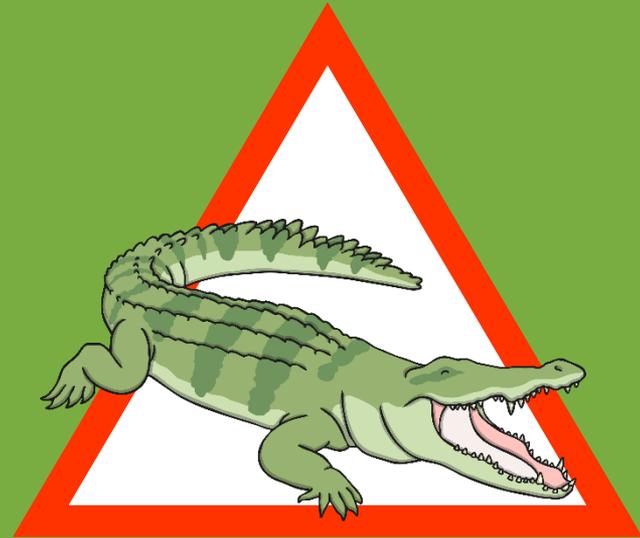
Freshwater and Saltwater Crocodiles

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They can be found in water
and on land.

They are dangerous reptiles and
should not be approached.



How Long Do They Live For?

As we can not be 100 percent certain of crocodiles living in the wild, these age estimates are based on crocodiles living in captivity.



Freshwater crocodile

The freshwater crocodile may live up to 130 years.



Saltwater crocodile

The saltwater crocodile may live up to 70 years.

How Big Can They Grow?

Freshwater crocodiles can grow up to 3 metres long, but on average are about 1.5 metres long.

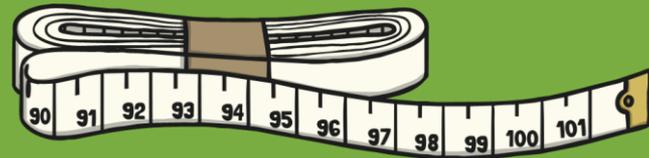
They can weigh up to about 90kg.



Saltwater crocodiles can grow up to 7 metres long, but females do not grow as big as males.

They can weigh up to about 1000kg.

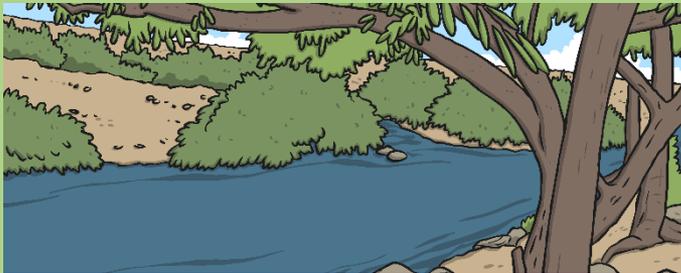
Salt water crocodiles are the largest living reptile in the world.



What Is Their Habitat?

The **freshwater crocodile** is found throughout the northern regions of Australia, from Cape York Peninsular to the Kimberleys.

They are found in both salt and freshwater billabongs, large river systems, lakes and swamps.



The **saltwater crocodile** is found in suitable habitats from northern Australia, through Southeast Asia and to the eastern coast of India.

It is usually found in deep, dark, murky water. It may inhabit fresh or saltwater but is most commonly found in the brackish estuary (mixture of fresh and salt water) areas of Northern Australia.

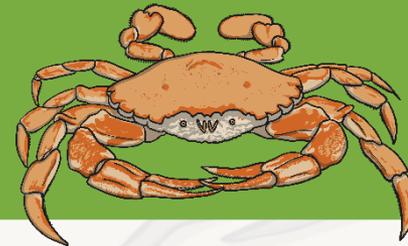
Diet

Freshwater crocodiles feed mainly on fish, crustaceans and insects. They will also prey upon small mammals, birds and reptiles.



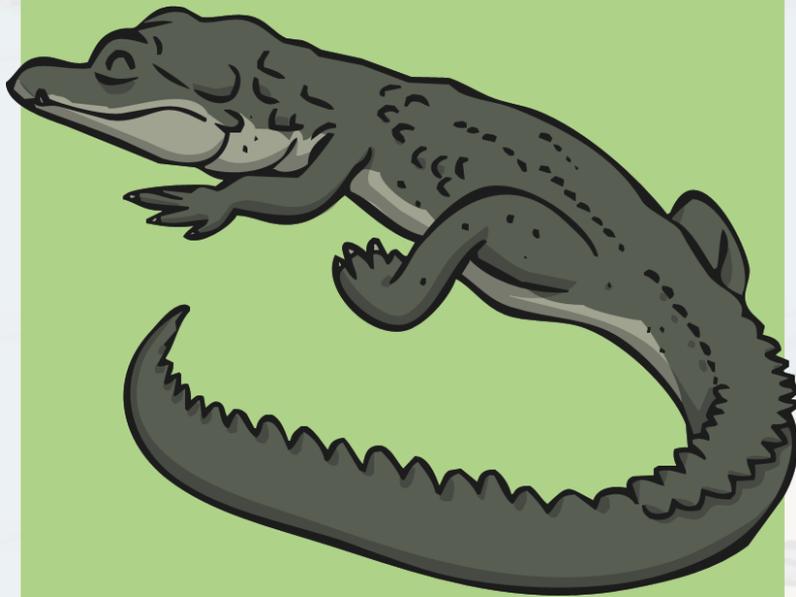
Younger **saltwater crocodiles** eat smaller things such as insects, amphibians, small reptiles and fish. The larger the animal becomes, the larger its prey.

Although a large male crocodile could take on prey as large as a one tonne water buffalo, they mostly eat fish, turtles, small animals and birds.



Reproduction

Female **freshwater crocodiles** will dig a hole in a sandy riverbank, and lay up to twelve eggs.



Female **saltwater crocodiles** will build a nest. This is usually made of sticks, leaves, sand and soil, and can be found on the banks of a river or swamp. She will lay up to 50 eggs in the nest.





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