

AMERICAN ALLIGATOR_{(or}

Alligator mississippiensis)



CHARACTERISTICS

It is one of the largest crocodilians in America, reaching a maximum of 6 meters in length, although due to the disappearance of large animals in the area due to anthropogenic causes, today, males range between 4 and 4.5 m and females reach 3 m, their weight ranges between 70 kg of females and more than 450 kg of males.



HABITAT

It is distributed by the rivers, marshes and marshes of the South of the United States, from North Carolina to South Texas. The human persecution to which it was once subjected has made it disappear from many areas, and currently it really only abounds in the state of Florida and to a lesser extent in the mouth of the Mississippi River. It is a protected species in the USA, and many of the national parks of Florida were created at the time in order to preserve their hunting and nesting areas.



FEEDING

Most crocodiles eat a wide variety of animals, including invertebrates, fish, birds, turtles, snakes, amphibians and mammals. The young feed mainly on invertebrates such as insects, insect larvae, snails, spiders and worms. As they grow, the alligator face increasingly larger prey. Once a crocodile reaches adulthood, any animal that lives in the water or goes to the water to drink is a potential prey, due to its size, power and speed.

REPRODUCTION

The female lays 20 to 50 eggs of similar size to a goose, which buries so that they hatch alone, ensuring that some receive more heat than others. The females continue to monitor the nest during the incubation period, frightening off possible predators such as lizards, snakes, birds and raccoons. When about 65 days have passed since the laying, the young begin to break the shell and emit sounds similar to the croaking of a frog, a signal that drives the female to unearth the nest. Then it leads the little ones to the water, where they scatter and wander lonely

INTERESTING FACT

Alligators have two kinds of walks. Besides swimming, alligators walk, run, and crawl on land. They have a “high walk” and a “low walk.” The low walk is sprawling, while in the high walk the alligator lifts its belly off the ground.

Films

PETER PAN

