



Just like superheroes have unique costumes, the American Alligator has a special suit of its own - a tough, scaly skin which is usually black! This amazing creature can grow up to 15 feet long, that's longer than most cars! These alligators have a broad snout and their upper jaw is wider than the lower one, causing the teeth in the lower jaw to fit into the sockets of the upper jaw. Their eyes are placed high on their heads, so they can see while submerged in water.



Speaking of water, did you know that American Alligators are like the ultimate swimmers? They live in freshwater environments, such as ponds, marshes, wetlands, rivers, and swamps, primarily in the Southeastern United States. These areas provide all the things an alligator needs, like food, fresh water and plenty of sunbathing spots. Also, their nests, which are made of vegetation, sticks, leaves, and mud, can be found in these habitats.

Now, let's talk about the alligator's daily menu. Young alligators love to munch on small fish, insects, snails, crustaceans, and worms. As they grow larger, they expand their diet to larger fish, turtles, various mammals, birds, and other reptiles. They are known as opportunistic feeders because they can eat anything that comes near the water's edge.



While alligators may seem scary, they usually prefer to avoid humans unless their nests are threatened. However, they play an important role in their ecosystem by controlling the population of certain prey species. Alligators and humans have a complex relationship, they are often seen as dangerous, but they also fascinate us and are protected by conservation laws in many areas. So, the next time you think of an alligator, remember they are not just big, scary creatures, but an important part of our natural world.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).

11) "You'll mostly find me in freshwater homes - like marshes, wetlands, rivers, swamps - you name it!"



American Alligator

Name: _____

- 12) "I live on a fruit-only diet. Berries are my favorite!"
- 13) "I prefer the cold environment of mountainous areas, not the sweltering heat of the marshes."
- 14) "I usually stick to dry places like deserts."
- 15) "I have skin that is tough and scaly."
- 16) "You know what's really cool about me? My eyes are placed high on my head, so I can see even when I'm submerged in the water."
- 17) "I find it quite difficult to swim and you won't find me in much water."
- 18) "I only dwell in salty sea water."
- 19) "You know, my skin is actually quite soft and squishy, not rough or scaly at all."
- 20) "Humans? Well, we usually stay away, but if someone threatens my nest, I have to defend it!"
- 21) "I definitely enjoy the company of humans and love it when they come near my nest."
- 22) "I build nests with sticks, leaves, and mud, just like how you would build a house with bricks and cement."
- 23) "My eyes are positioned low on my head, so I can view fish underwater."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 24) American Alligators primarily live in freshwater environments.
- 25) The American Alligator's black scaly skin looks sleek and elegant.
- 26) American Alligators' eyes are located high on their heads to be able to see while they are underwater.
- 27) It's neat that alligators can see well even when they are underwater.
- 28) American Alligators usually have black scaly skin.
- 29) It would be scary to see an alligator swimming towards you in a swamp.
- 30) Young American Alligators eat a diet consisting of small fish, insects, snails, crustaceans, and worms.
- 31) The upper jaw of an American Alligator is wider than the lower one.
- 32) The alligator's broad snout and wide upper jaw make it look silly.
- 33) The way the American Alligator can grow up to 15 feet long is incredible.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 34) American alligators live in saltwater environments.
- 35) American alligators only eat small insects.
- 36) American alligators will eat anything that comes near the water's edge.
- 37) The American Alligator lives in freshwater environments.
- 38) American Alligators bodies grow to 30 ft long.
- 39) American Alligators can grow up to 15 feet long.
- 40) American Alligators primarily live in the Southeastern United States.
- 41) Alligators have a tough, scaly black skin.
- 42) The American Alligator has smooth skin, unlike other alligators.
- 43) Young alligators eat mostly small fish.
- 44) American Alligator can't see when they are submerged in water.

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 45) American alligators can stay underwater for up to two hours.
- 46) Can American alligators climb trees?



American Alligator

Name: _____

- 47) American alligators can live up to 50 years.
- 48) American alligators are carnivorous and eat fish, turtles, and birds.
- 49) What do American alligators eat?
- 50) What is the average length of an American alligator?



American Alligator

Name: _____

1. _____ 26. _____

2. _____ 27. _____

3. _____ 28. _____

4. _____ 29. _____

5. _____ 30. _____

6. _____ 31. _____

7. _____ 32. _____

8. _____ 33. _____

9. _____ 34. _____

10. _____ 35. _____

11. _____ 36. _____

12. _____ 37. _____

13. _____ 38. _____

14. _____ 39. _____

15. _____ 40. _____

16. _____ 41. _____

17. _____ 42. _____

18. _____ 43. _____

19. _____ 44. _____

20. _____ 45. _____

21. _____ 46. _____

22. _____ 47. _____

23. _____ 48. _____

24. _____ 49. _____

25. _____ 50. _____



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American Alligator

Name: **Answer Key**

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1. **D** 26. **fact**

2. **B** 27. **opinion**

3. **B** 28. **fact**

4. **D** 29. **opinion**

5. **A** 30. **fact**

6. **A** 31. **fact**

7. **D** 32. **opinion**

8. **B** 33. **opinion**

9. **C** 34. **false**

10. **D** 35. **false**

11. **Would** 36. **true**

12. **Not** 37. **true**

13. **Not** 38. **false**

14. **Not** 39. **true**

15. **Would** 40. **true**

16. **Would** 41. **true**

17. **Not** 42. **false**

18. **Not** 43. **true**

19. **Not** 44. **false**

20. **Would** 45. **declarative**

21. **Not** 46. **interrogative**

22. **Would** 47. **declarative**

23. **Not** 48. **declarative**

24. **fact** 49. **interrogative**

25. **opinion** 50. **interrogative**



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What color is the American Alligator's skin? (paragraph 1)
A. _____ B. Brown
C. _____ D. Black

- 2) In which part of the United States are American Alligators primarily found? (paragraph 2)
A. Southwestern _____ B. Southeastern
C. _____ D. _____

- 3) What do young alligators eat? (paragraph 3)
A. Large fish, turtles, various mammals _____ B. Small fish, insects, snails, crustaceans, and worms
C. _____ D. _____

- 4) Where do American Alligators live? (paragraph 2)
A. Saltwater environments _____ B.
C. _____ D. Freshwater environments

- 5) What is the shape of an alligator's snout? (paragraph 1)
A. Broad _____ B.
C. _____ D. _____

- 6) How long can an American Alligator grow? (paragraph 1)
A. Up to 15 feet long _____ B.
C. _____ D. _____

- 7) Are alligators often dangerous to humans? (paragraph 4)
A. Yes, they often provoke humans _____ B.
C. _____ D. No, they prefer to avoid humans unless their nests are threatened

- 8) Where on their heads are American Alligators' eyes located? (paragraph 1)
A. At the back of their heads _____ B. High on their heads
C. _____ D. _____

- 9) What do alligators eat as they grow larger? (paragraph 3)
A. _____ B. More insects and worms
C. Larger fish, turtles, and mammals _____ D. _____

- 10) Why are American Alligators considered opportunistic feeders? (paragraph 3)
A. They steal food from other animals _____ B.
C. _____ D. They can eat anything that comes near the water's edge

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- 11) "You'll mostly find me in freshwater homes - like marshes, wetlands, rivers, swamps - you name it!" (paragraph 2)



American Alligator

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