

Comparing

Signal words can help us to identify when a comparison is being made.

Compare		
as well as		both
like	similarly	
	too	also

Contrast		
in contrast		unlike
	different	
while	whereas	but

Crocodiles and Alligators



The rounded, U-shaped jaw of an alligator.

People often confuse alligators and crocodiles. They are both large, fierce-looking reptiles. They share similar scaly skin and are both cold-blooded. Both species are millions of years old.

Crocodiles and alligators are large animals, however adult crocodiles are longer and heavier than adult alligators. They both have long tails, short legs and bumpy backs. While both animals also have long snouts, alligators have rounded, U-shaped snouts. Crocodiles, however, have long and pointed V-shaped snouts. Alligators and crocodiles are also different in their colouring. Alligators are a blackish grey, while crocodiles are an olive green or brown colour.

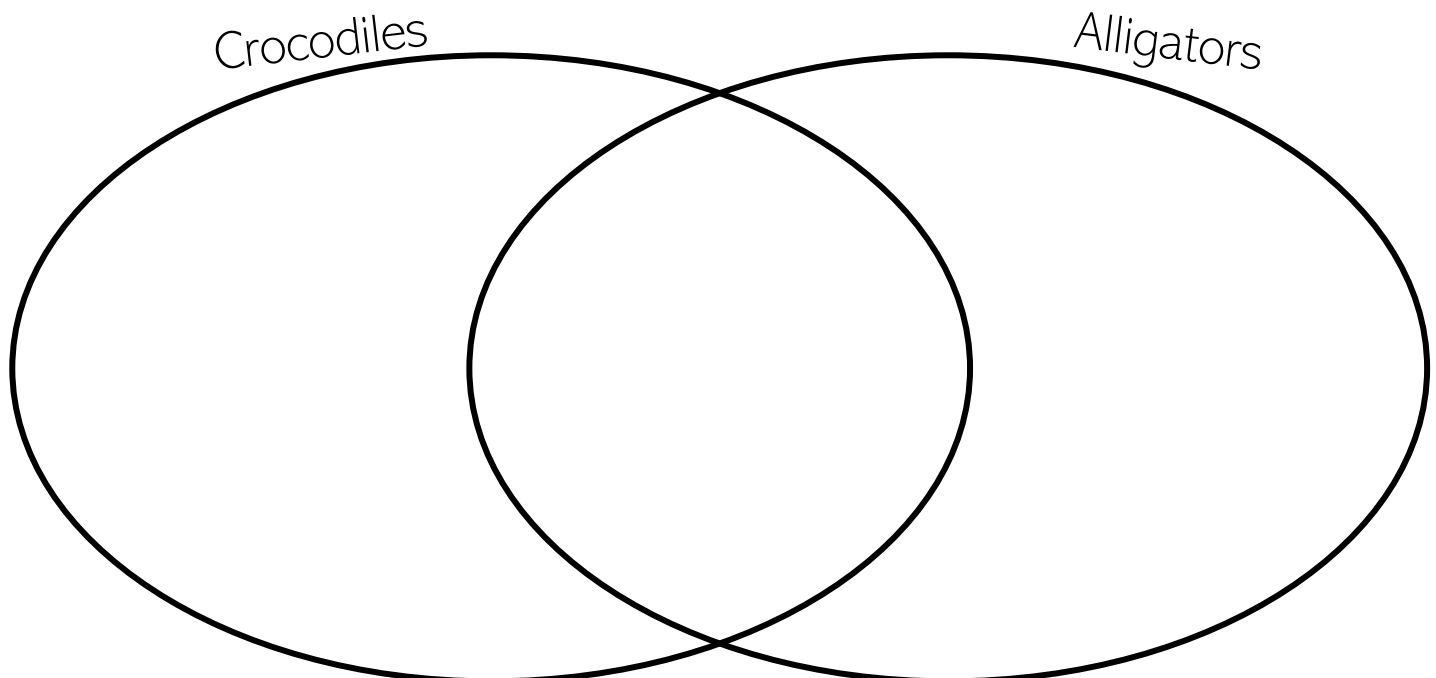
Both animals have a mouth full of sharp teeth. Crocodiles have between 60 and 72 teeth in their mouth, whereas alligators have between 74 and 80 teeth. Alligators have an upper jaw which is wider than the lower jaw. In contrast, the upper jaw of a crocodile is approximately the same width as its lower jaw. So, unlike alligators, large teeth on the lower jaw are visible when a crocodile closes its jaws.



The 'toothy smile' of a crocodile.

Alligators and crocodiles are both very popular with visitors to zoos.

Compare crocodiles and alligators using the Venn diagram.



Comparing Answers

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