

Lesson Plan Guide

Common Core Standard(s) RI.6.1. Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RI.6.2. Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Instructional Strategy:

Concept Comparison

Key Ideas and Details:

Article talks about differences between alligators and crocodiles.

Students will outline using concept comparison.

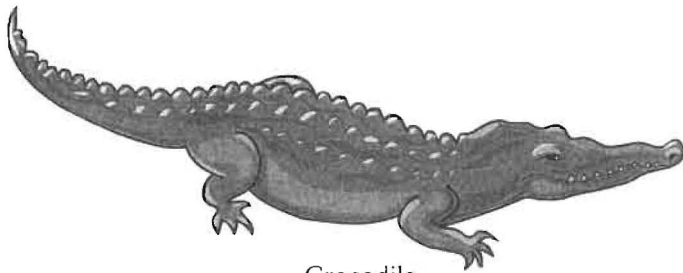
Common Assessment (Description):

Students will complete concept comparison table to outline different characteristics.

LESSON 1

Read this article about two kinds of reptiles. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 through 12.

A. Compare and contrast the differences between crocodiles and alligators.
Crocodiles and Alligators—What's the Difference?



Crocodile

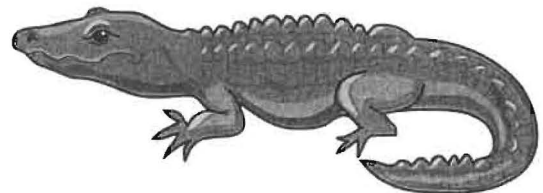
① Have you ever seen a crocodile or an alligator? If you have, then you know how difficult it can be to tell them apart. Because these cold-blooded reptiles are both members of the same family, there are many ways in which they are alike. For example, both crocodiles and alligators

love to be warm. They bask in the warmth of the sun for hours each day. Like other reptiles, the body temperature of crocodiles and alligators is always the same as that of their surroundings. To survive, they must live in areas that provide the heat they require. Crocodiles can be found in the swamps and rivers of warm regions in the Americas. They also live in parts of Africa, Asia, and Australia. Alligators are commonly found along warm coastal areas in the United States and in parts of China.

② Finding differences between a crocodile and an alligator can be difficult. The first thing you can do to try to tell them apart is to look at the jaws of each reptile. If the lower teeth stick out when the jaw is closed, then the animal is a crocodile. If you cannot see the teeth when the jaw is closed, then the animal is an alligator.

③ Another way to distinguish between a crocodile and an alligator is by their size. Crocodiles can be as much as 20 feet long, but most alligators are about 12 feet long or smaller. Just because an alligator's body is smaller than a crocodile's, however, does not mean that every part of it is too. In fact, the alligator's snout is large and rounded like a worn crayon tip. The crocodile's snout is thin and pointed like a sharp pencil.

④ One final way to tell these two reptiles apart is by their skin. Crocodiles have hard, tough skin. An alligator's skin is just as hard, but somewhat smoother. You now should have enough information to tell the difference between a crocodile and an alligator. If you should ever have the opportunity to test your knowledge, however, be careful! Crocodiles and alligators can be swift and dangerous so always keep a safe distance.



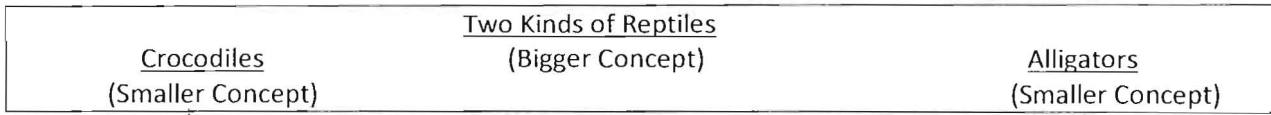
Alligator

CONCEPT COMPARISON TABLE

NAME

Date

Block



Characteristics That Are Alike

Characteristics That are Different

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Using "The Recipe" strategy, contrast the differences between crocodiles and alligators.