

ALLIGATORS & CROCODILES

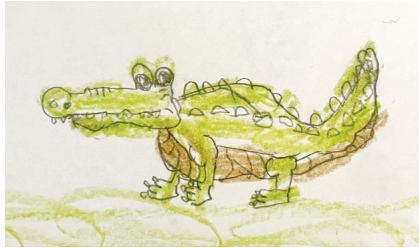
Zooworks®



Olivia F., age 12



Aiden DLG, age 11



Annabel C., age 7

Once upon a time there was a crocodile. His name was William. He was very friendly but nobody knew. He tried to tell them but they did not understand. But suddenly a little boy walked up to him. Even William the brave crocodile was frightened. The little boy knew that he was friendly...and LONELY. But then the little boy gave William a BIG hug. And they lived happily ever after.

Katie G., age 8



Aliyah S., age 9



Annalie S., age 8

Alligators are green.
 They glide through the water unseen.
 Humans think they're mean.
 Birds can keep their teeth clean.

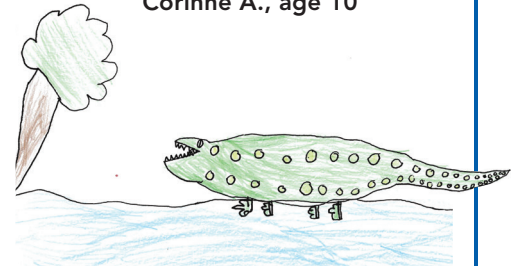
Joseph A., age 9



Rio T., age 8

A black shape slides by.
 "An alligator!" you say.
 But now it's gone.

Corinne A., age 10



Ryan W., age 6



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 even more
 fun!

Look for Activity Pages Online!

Visit rangerrick.org/ZBactivities to find fun alligator and crocodile activities to print or download.

Plus at rangerrick.org you'll find:

- Interactive games
- 50 pictures, poems and stories from kids like you
- Animal videos

Would you like to see your work published in **Ranger Rick Zoobooks**?

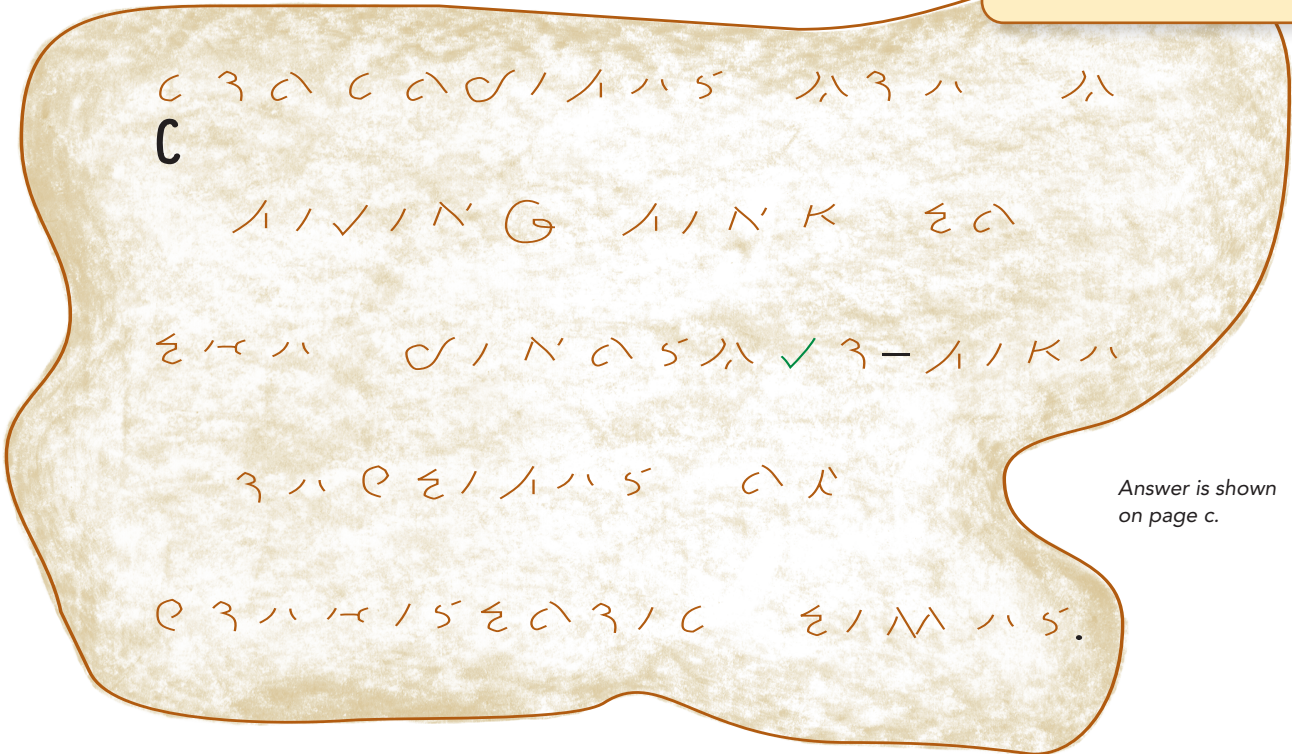
Here's what to do: Go to www.rangerrick.org/zooworks for rules and deadlines.



We want to see your original poem, story, or drawing by November 1, 2022 for "Orangutans" or December 7, 2022 for "Rhinos."

Do As the ROMANS Do

You can do as the Romans did to discover a message about crocodiles. Read on to find out what to do.



Answer is shown on page c.

The Roman Empire began nearly 3000 years ago. It fell in A.D. 410. We gained much from the Romans, including our alphabet. If you look at the letters in the code below, you can probably recognize many shapes that are similar to the letters we use today. But the letters have changed enough over time to work as a code. In fact, in this activity we used the Roman alphabet to write the secret message about crocodiles above. However, instead of writing in Latin, the language spoken in ancient Rome, we wrote our message in English so you could understand it.

To decode the message, write the matching modern letter below each ancient Roman letter. We've written in the first modern letter for you as an example.

You might notice that the code shows the same Roman letters for the modern letters **I** and **J** as well as the modern letters **U**, **V**, and **W**. That's because the Romans did not have separate symbols for these letters. We've tried to make it easier for you by using color to show the differences in these letters. We used a green / for the letter **j**, a green ✓ for **u**, and a blue ✓ for **w**.



ALLIGATOR & CROCODILE WORD SAFARI

In the puzzle at left, circle the crocodilian names shown in the blue box below. Names are frontward, backward, and diagonal.



S T E L E R O M E
 N A M E R I C A N
 O R L A I R A H G
 T A S T L U C E B
 S N O D W H O S T
 N E C U B A N M U
 H I O P E W T Y F
 O S N N V B A E L
 J A I M U G G E R
 D L R E S T N O W
 E K O N A M I A C

AMERICAN
 MORELET'S
 CUBAN
 ORINOCO
 NILE
 GHARIAL
 CAIMAN
 SALTWATER
 MUGGER

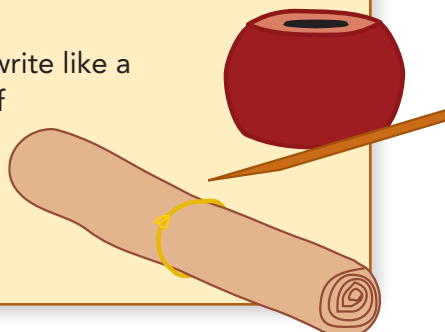
NEXT STEP

Ancient Romans used a variety of writing

materials. What we would call books were written on scrolls. These were rolls of papyrus, an early form of paper made from reeds, which grew in water. Letters and business documents were written on very thin pieces of wood. Ink made from ashes was sometimes used. Otherwise a thin layer of beeswax was spread across the wood. Then, the words were scratched into the wax with a stylus. This special kind of pen is like a stick that is pointy at one end and flat on the other.

Imagine how hard it was to scratch each letter into the soft wax. It took a long time. It's fun to wonder what an ancient Roman would think of our computers, which make it easy for us to write and communicate with each other now.

You can see for yourself what it was like to write like a Roman. Try writing a message in a flat piece of clay using a stick to make the Roman letters. The clay is like the wax in which letters were scratched with a stylus. Give the message to a friend to decode.



Answers
 Do As the Romans Do:
 Crocodiles are a living link to the dinosaur-like reptiles of the prehistoric times.
 Alligator & Crocodile
 Word Safari:

What's the Difference?

Can you tell the difference between an alligator and a crocodile? To find the answers, read the inside front cover and pages 2, 3, 4, 14, and 15 of *Zoobooks Alligators and Crocodiles*. Then, test your knowledge as you complete the three mazes that make up the puzzle below. If you get stumped, you can look back through the pages of this *Zoobooks®* for help. To complete the puzzle, start at one of the three Mystery Crocodilian points shaded in green. Read the first question shown in brown. Select the correct answer from the three possible choices which are shown in black. If you make the correct choice, you will move through the maze to the next clue. Continue as before, reading the clue, finding the correct choice, and moving through the maze. Remember, questions and clues are shown in brown and possible answers in black.

Mystery Crocodilian #1

Which crocodilian has a wide, flat head with a broad, round nose?
 alligator
 crocodile
 gharial

You're right! Now find a true fact about an alligator.
 Found only in India.
 Builds its nest above ground.
 Nearly all its teeth stay on the outside when its mouth is closed.

You're amazing. Find another alligator fact.
 Has over 100 teeth.
 Builds its nest in a hole below ground.
 Only its top teeth show when its mouth is closed.

Mystery Crocodilian #2

Which crocodilian has a long, thin jaw and a snout like a frying pan handle?
 crocodile
 alligator
 gharial

You're an alligator authority! Score 3 points.
 Has over 100 same-sized teeth.
 Well done! Now find a true fact about a crocodile.
 Nearly all its differently sized teeth stay outside its closed mouth.
 Only its top teeth show in its closed mouth.

Mystery Crocodilian #3

Which crocodilian has a long, triangle-shaped head?
 crocodile
 gharial
 alligator

Excellent choice. Now find a true fact about a gharial.
 Its differently sized teeth stay on the outside of its mouth.
 Has over 100 same-sized teeth.
 Its differently sized teeth can be seen in its closed mouth.
 Consider yourself a gharial guru! Score 3 points.
 Builds its nest above ground.
 Builds its nest below ground.
 Only lives in salt water.

You're awesome! Can you find another gharial fact?
 Found where the weather is cold.
 Found only in South America.
 Found only in India.

Consider yourself a crafty crocodile expert! Score 3 points.

Answers: Mystery Crocodilian #1: alligator; builds its nest above ground; only its top teeth show when its mouth is closed. Mystery Crocodilian #2: crocodile; nearly all its differently sized teeth stay outside its closed mouth; builds its nest below ground. Mystery Crocodilian #3: gharial; has over 100 same-sized teeth; found only in India.