

Alligator

American Alligator *(Alligator mississippiensis)*

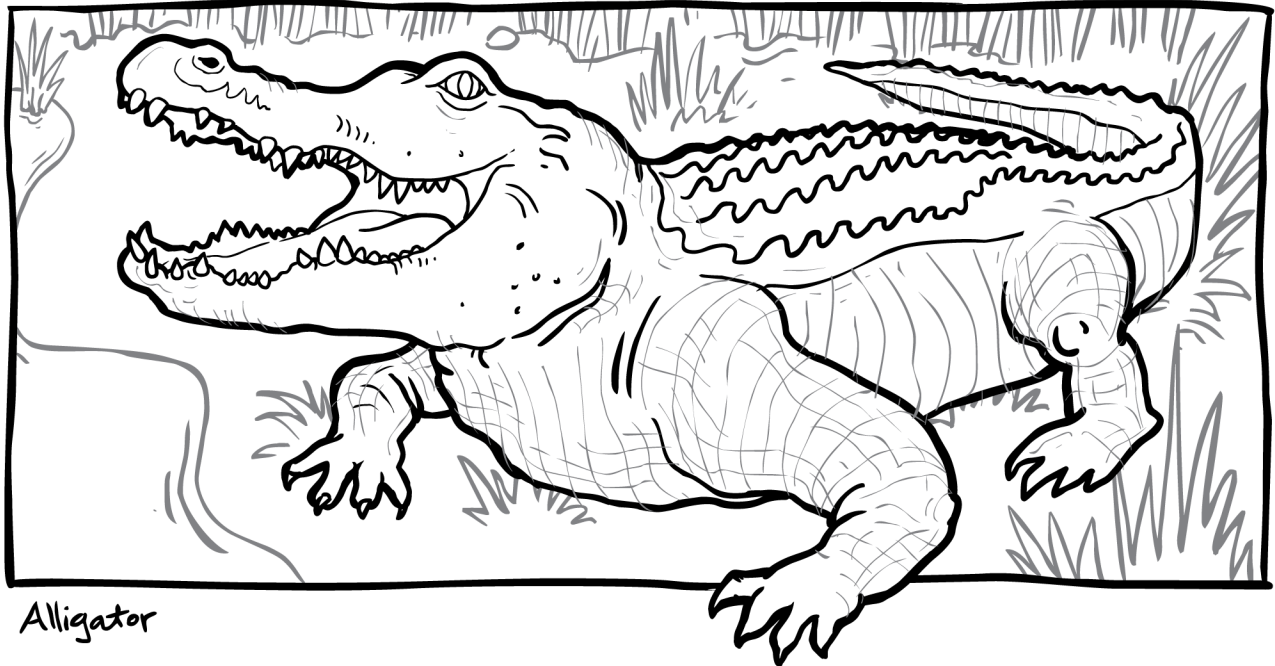
Instant ID

- Large lizard-like body with a broad, rounded snout
- Adults are dark, while young have yellow stripes and splotches
- Adults average 10 to 15 feet long and have about 80 teeth

Native Niches

- Commonly found in over 93 Florida State Parks
- Prefers freshwater lakes, rivers and wetlands, but sometimes lives in saltwater
- South Florida is the only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles live together





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Favorite Foods

- Young alligators eat small fish, frogs and toads, as well as insects
- Adults eat snakes, turtles, birds, large fish and small mammals

Critter Characteristics

- Young alligators stay with their mothers for up to 3 years
- Alligator attacks on humans are rare
- Designated as Florida's state reptile

Population Protection

- Listed as a threatened species in Florida
- You can help alligators by obeying posted signs, not feeding them and keeping a safe distance