

CROCODILIANS



ALLIGATOR OR CROCODILE



Crocodylian Lapbook and Study

What is a Crocodylian?

Crocodylians are an order of large reptiles of the order Crocodylia, which includes the alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and gavials.

Where do Crocodylians Live?

Crocodylians live in places where the water meets the land and where the weather is warm.

American alligators live in swamps, marshes, rivers, lakes and ponds in southeastern United States.

Common Caimans live in Central and South America, Mexico, the U.S., the West Indies, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

Australian saltwater crocodile lives from Australia to India, Vietnam, China, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands.

Booklets:

Where in the World?
Where They Live

Alligator or Crocodile?

What is the difference between crocodiles and alligators?

~When a crocodile's mouth is closed some of its teeth slide into a c-shaped groove on either side of the top jaw. The teeth can be seen when the mouth is closed. When an alligator's (and caiman) mouth is fully closed, you cannot see their teeth.

~An alligator has a wide, rounded snout. A crocodile has a more pointed snout.

~Alligators are freshwater reptiles. Crocodiles live in both salt and fresh water.

What do alligators and crocodiles have in common?

They have long, bumpy bodies covered in scales called scutes.

They have four short legs, sharp teeth, and a long, strong tail.

They are both reptiles.

They live in lakes, swamps, and rivers.

Booklet: Alligator vs. Crocodile Shutterfold

What do Crocodilians Eat?

- ~Crocodilians are carnivores.
- ~Young crocodilians eat insects, crayfish, crabs, frogs, and small fish.
- ~As they grow, they add small mammals, lizards, snakes, turtles, and birds.
- ~Large crocodilians will eat wildebeest, zebras, monkeys, deer, and people.

Booklet: Enemies and Diet

How do Crocodilians Hunt?

Young crocodilians will snap at insects, small fish, and frogs. Older crocodilians lay in wait and stalk their prey. They will grab their prey and drag it under the water to drown it. They will do a death roll to make sure the prey is dead and rip it to pieces.

Booklet: On the Hunt Wheel

How do Crocodilians Reproduce?

- ~Males court the females. Males bellow to the females. They also may rub snouts, swim in circles, and blow bubbles.
- ~They come together and mate under the water.
- ~The female builds a nest and lays eggs.
- ~The females guard their nests.
- ~When the eggs hatch, they will carry their young in their mouth to the water.
- ~Hatchlings will be mostly females when the temperatures of the eggs are kept below 89 degrees F.

Booklets:

Reproduction
Boy or Girl Egg

Do Crocodilians Have Enemies?

Generally speaking, adult crocodilians do not have any natural predators. They will sometimes be attacked by elephants, lions, hippopotamus, or rhinoceros if they get in their way. Young crocodilians have lots of predators including monitor lizards, fish, and birds. Crocodilians' main predators are humans.

Booklet: Enemies Matchbook

How do Crocodilians See, Hear, and Smell?

How do Crocodilians See, Hear, and Smell?

~Crocodilians have special see-through eyelids that protect their eyes when the animal is underwater. It has slit-like, vertical pupil that lets in more light. They also have binocular vision which allows them to judge distances.

~Crocodilians have very good hearing. They have flaps that cover the ear openings to protect the ears when underwater.

~Crocodilians have a great sense of smell that allows them to find prey in murky water. Muscles close of the nostrils when underwater. They also have sense organs on their scales located along the sides of their jaws that help with this.

Booklet: Senses Tri-fold

Crocodilian Facts

~Crocodilians have extremely strong jaw muscles when they clamp down, but their opening muscles are so weak that a person's firm grip can keep the mouth closed.

~Their teeth are made for catching prey and tearing meat away, not for chewing.

~They are cold blooded and rely on their environment for warmth.

~Crocodilians can go long periods of time without food.

Use your library books or the web for research to find more facts about crocodilians. Record in the booklets below. Research four different species of crocodilians and include information in the types book.

Booklets:

Facts Pocket

Behavior Accordion

Types Shutterflap

Library List

Snap! A book About Alligator and Crocodiles by Melvin & Gilda Berger

Zoobooks - Alligators and Crocodiles

Alligators and Crocodiles by Trudi Strain Trueit

Scary Creatures: Alligators and Crocodiles by Dr Gerald Legg, Nicholas Hewetson

Crocodiles & Alligators by Seymour Simon

Alligators and Crocodiles by Lynn M Stone

All About Alligators by Jim Arnosky

Booklet: Library Research

Additional Resources

[Alligators at Enchanted Learning](#)

[American Crocodile Printout](#)

[Black Caiman Printout](#)

[Spectacled Caiman Printout](#)

Booklet Directions

1. Types of Crocodilians: write down the 4 types of crocodilians; draw picture if desired
2. Crocodile/Alligator mini booklet: record the similarities and differences of the alligator and crocodile
3. Where do Crocodilians Live mini booklet: record locations for alligators, caimans, and crocodiles
4. Where in the world mini booklet: show on the map where crocodiles and alligators live; use different colors for each
5. Got meat? Crocodilian Diet mini booklet: record what crocodiles/alligators eat at different stages in their lives
6. On the Hunt mini booklet: describe how crocodiles hunt
7. Interesting Facts mini booklet: write down any interesting facts that you discover during your research
8. Behavior mini booklet: describe some of the different behaviors of crocodilians
9. Reproduction mini booklet: describe the mating habits of crocodilians
10. Egg Boy or Girl mini booklet: write the temperatures required for boys & girls
11. Enemies mini booklet: record the enemies of crocodilians
12. How do Crocodilians See, Hear, & Smell mini booklet: describe special features that crocodilians have that allow them to see, smell, and hear in the water
13. My Crocodilian Story: write a story about a crocodile/alligator
14. Library Research mini booklet: record the library books used



Fold in half like a top folding card. Glue images and text on front cover

Where in the World?

Where do Crocodilians Live?



Cut out on solid lines.
Stack on top of each other
with cover image on top.
Staple at top.

Alligator

Caiman

Crocodile

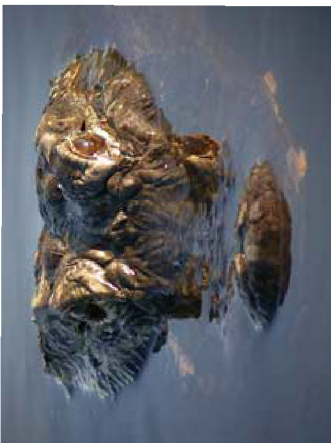


Crocodile

Fold in at dotted lines so images are on outside. This will look like shutters on a window.



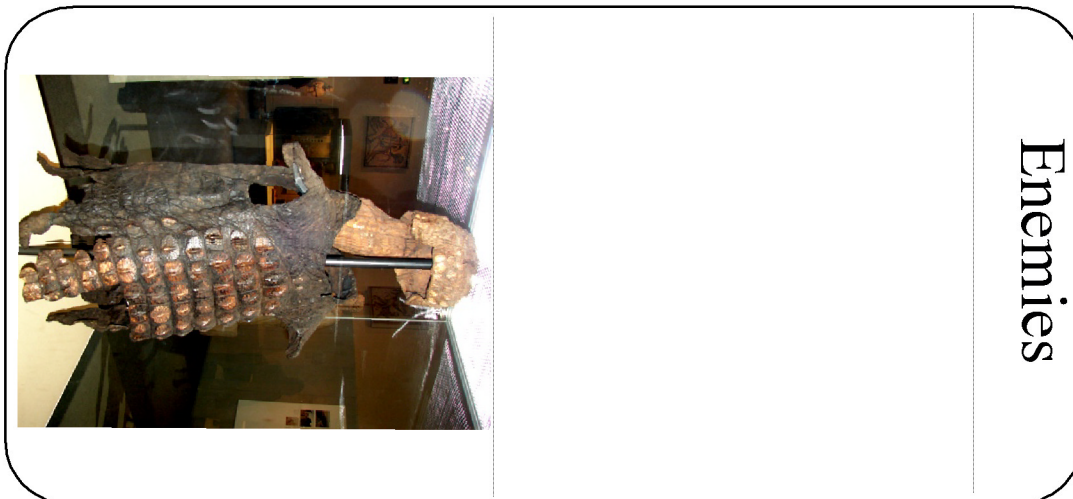
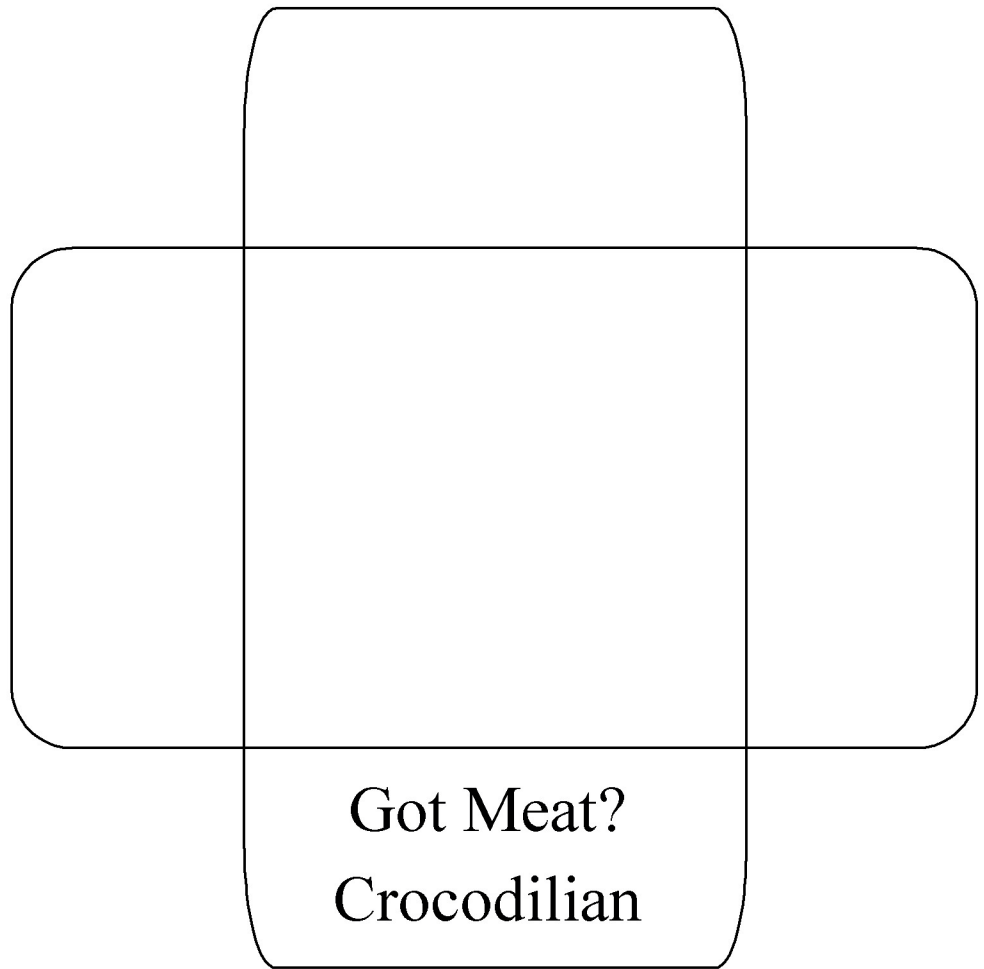
Alligators & Crocodiles



Alligator

Use this title & images for
Where in the World booklet

Fold on solid lines one flap at a time. Title flap should be on the top.

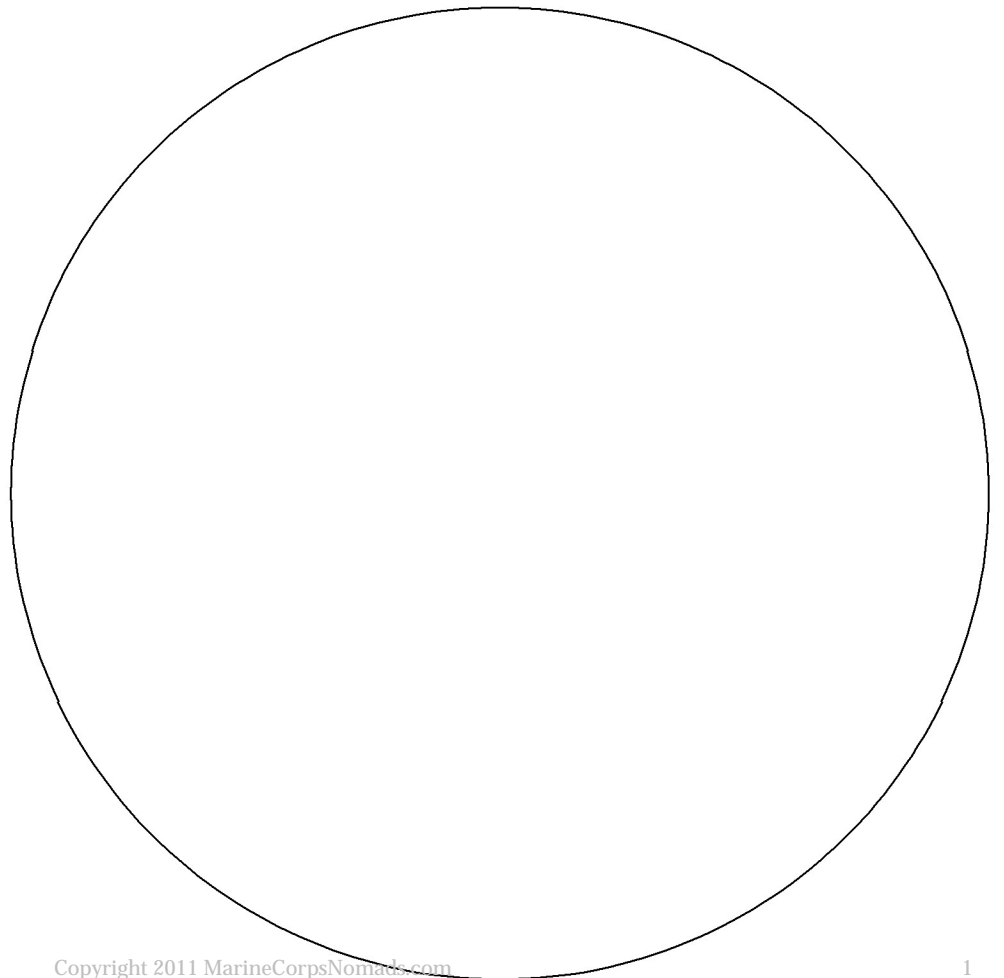


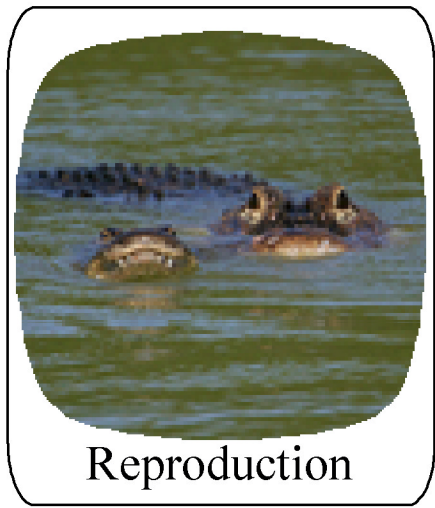
Fold on dotted lines matchbook style.

Cut out this section

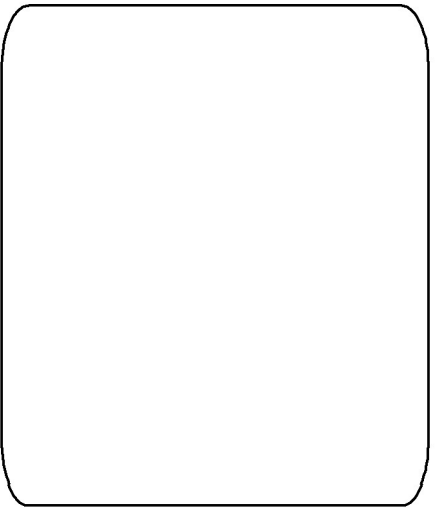
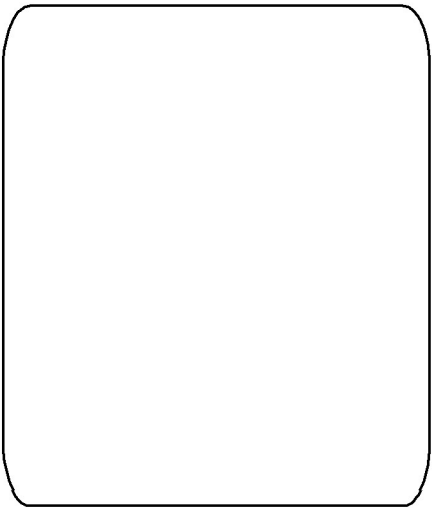
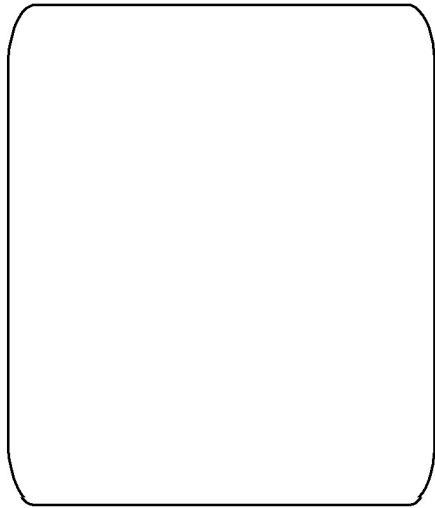
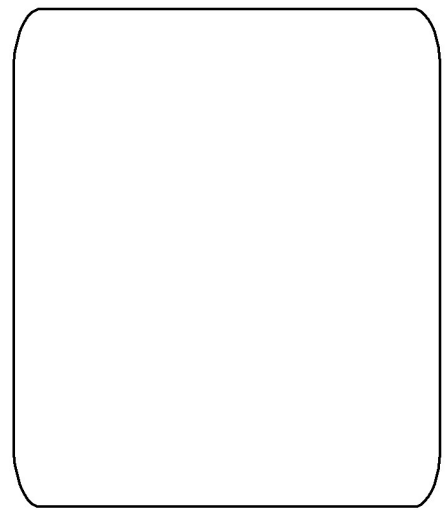
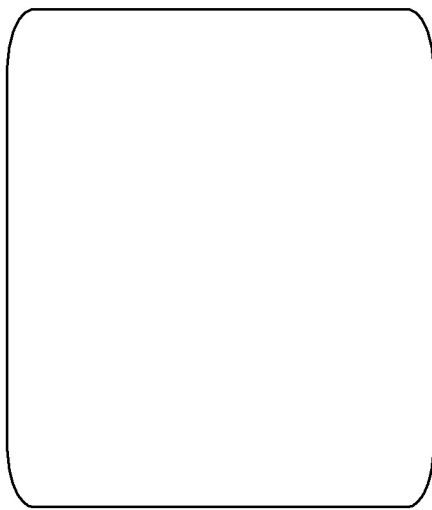


Cut out wheels. Cut out section on top wheel. Attach together with a brad.





Reproduction



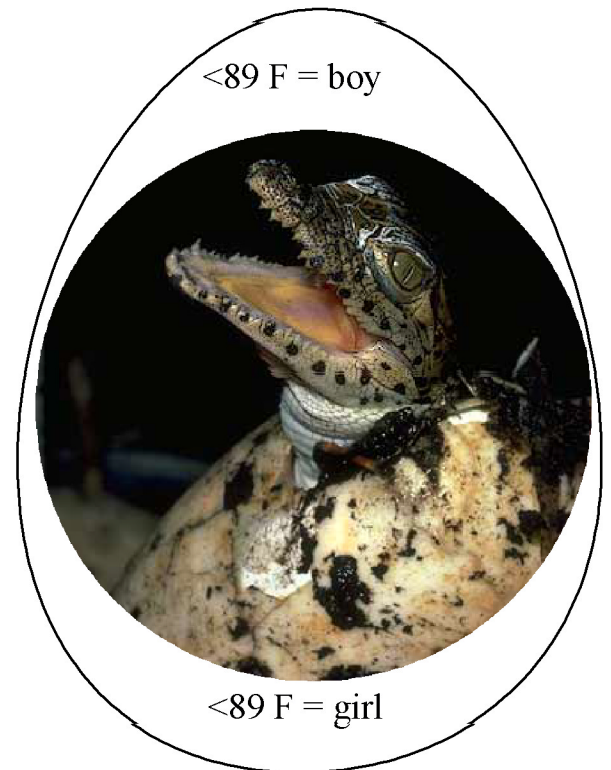
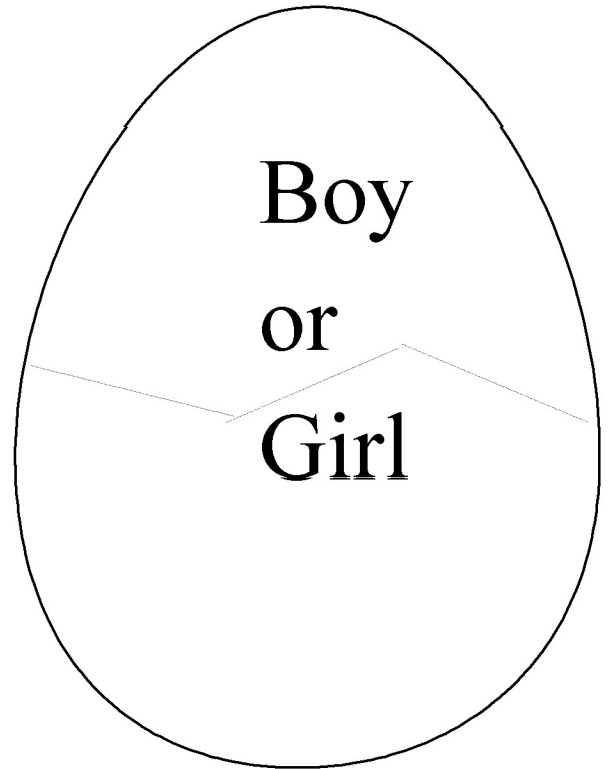
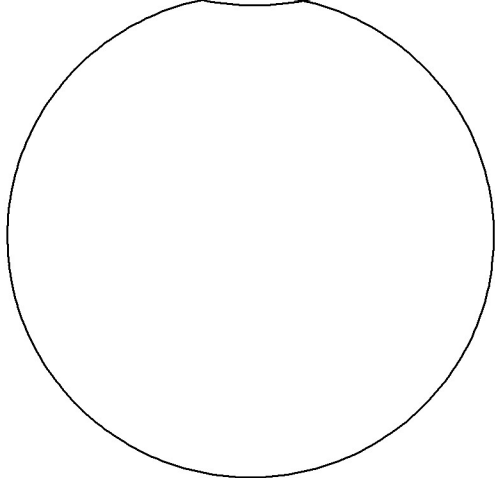
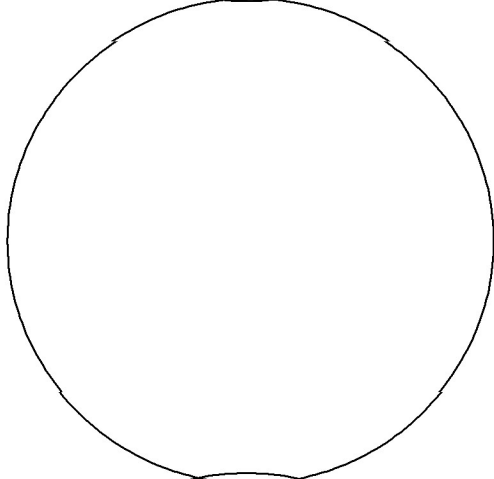
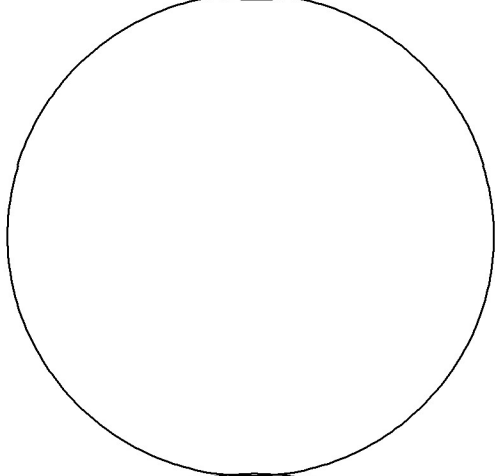
Cut out on solid lines.
Stack pages with image
on top. Staple together.



Interesting Facts

Cut out on solid lines.
Fold tabs in to create a
pocket. Use index cards
to write down interesting
facts.

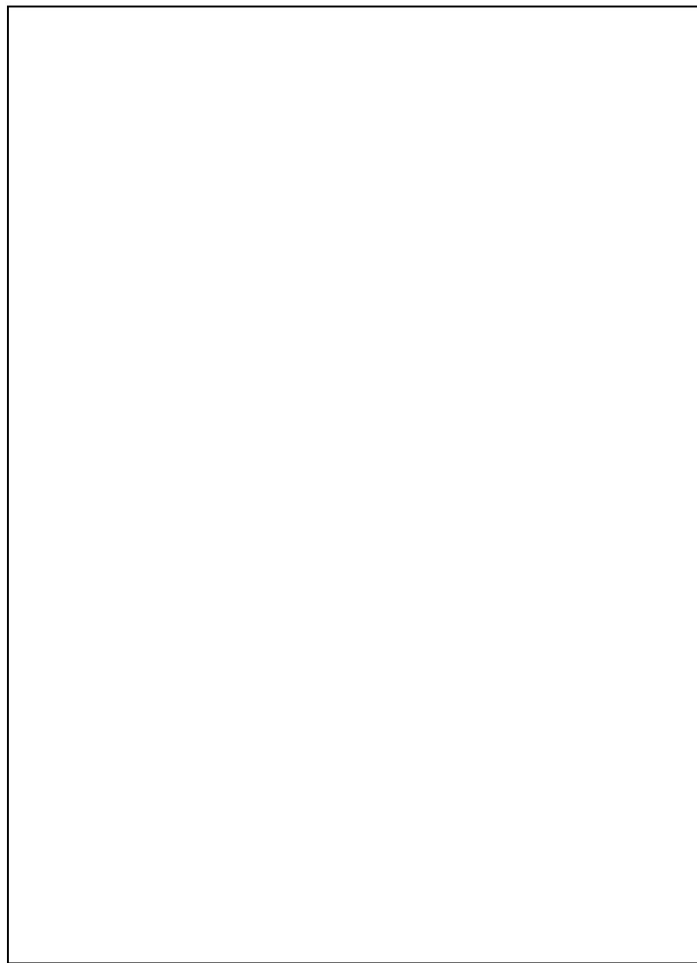
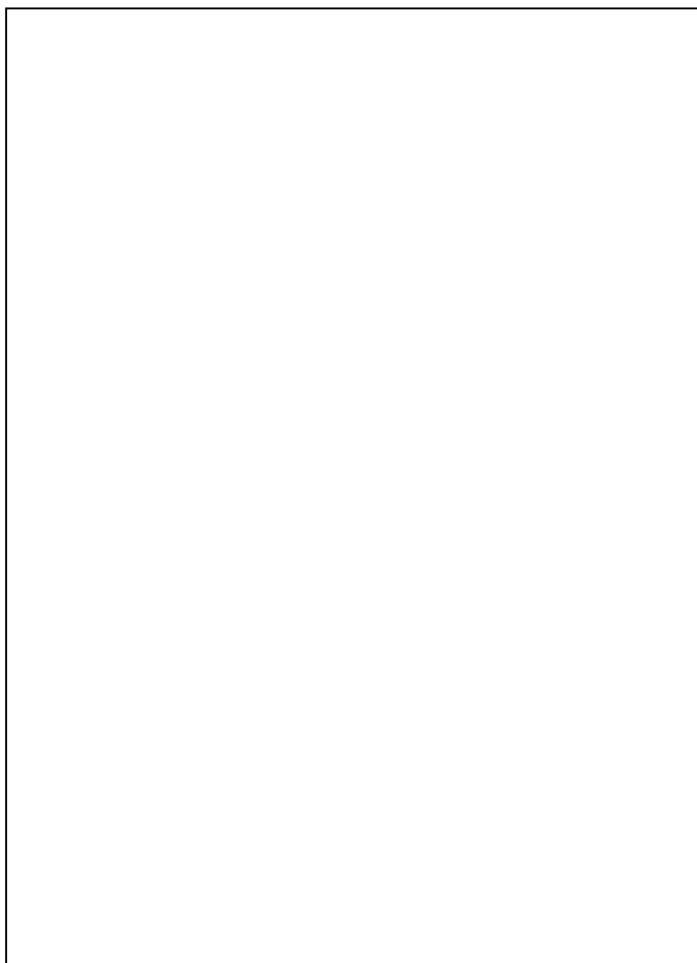
Do an accordian fold with the image on top.



Cut out around solid lines. Cut egg in 2 pieces along dotted line. Attach cover with 2 brads so egg "cracks open" to reveal image.



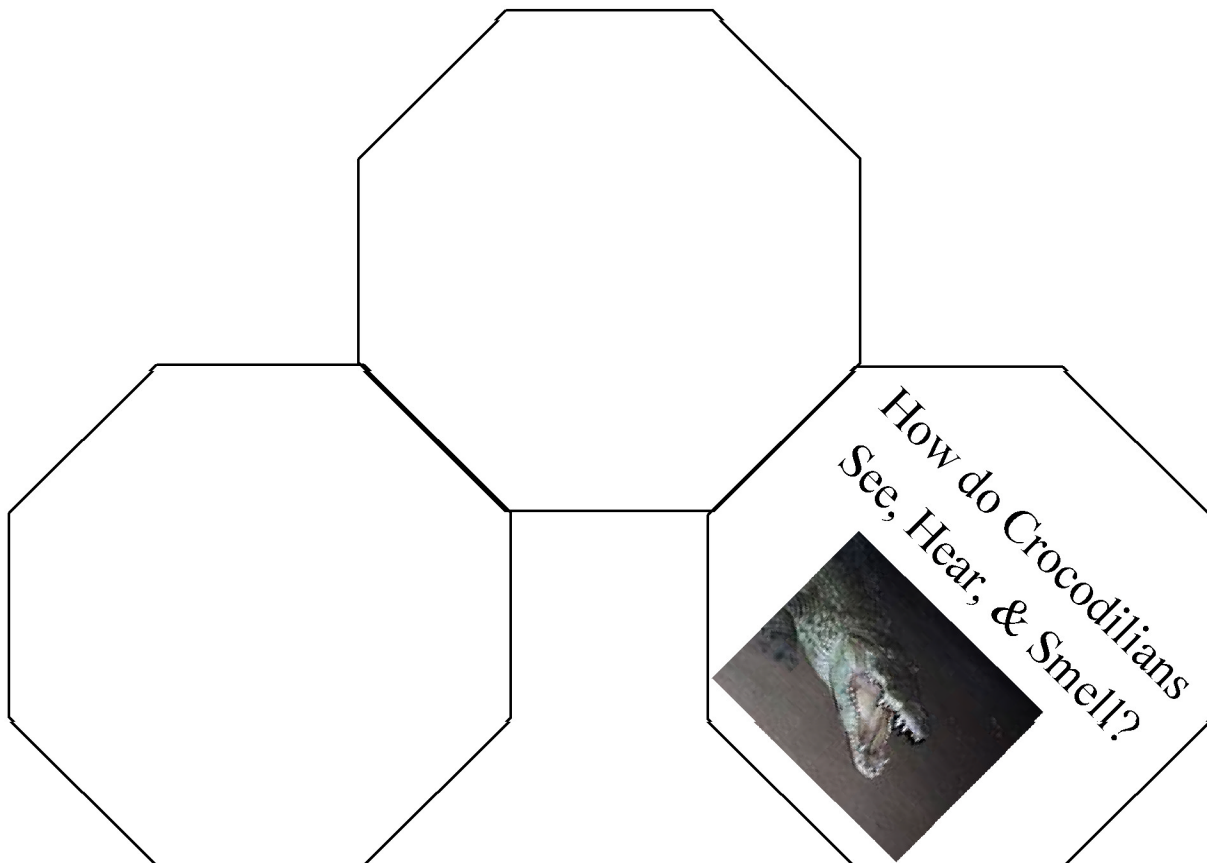
My Crocodilian Story



Types of Crocodilians



Cut along outer solid line. Fold on dotted lines (shutter fold). Fold again on center dotted line. Image should be on the front.



Cut out as one piece. Fold shapes in so image is on front.

Library Research

Cut out and stack on top of each other. Attach together with brad.