

American Alligator; AKA the swamp puppy

Alligator mississippiensis

Habitat



Alligators live in lakes, swamps, and rivers in the Southeastern United States.



Conservation

Alligators were placed on the endangered list in 1967 due to poaching. Their numbers recovered to over 1,000,000 and they were removed from the list in 1987.

Feeding alligators in their natural environment leads to habituation which results in authorities putting down hundreds of alligators as they approach people.



Facts

- Life span: 35-50 years
- Size: 10-15 feet
- Weight: 1000 lbs.
- Alligators bite with over 2,000 lbs. of pressure.
- Evolved 84 million years ago
- Grow 3,000 teeth during their life
- Alligators can move their lungs to change their buoyancy.
- They have sensory organs to detect movement from prey.

Diet

Alligators are opportunistic eaters, but they prefer small prey including small mammals and reptiles.

Alligators will even eat other alligators.

For more info visit: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/animals-we-protect/american-alligator/>

- 1. This exhibit label is being provided for the layperson. The language provided on this exhibit label is directed at an 8th-grade reading level so that the information contained is easy to understand.
- 2. The purpose of this Informative Artifact is to provide information or knowledge to those who do not know about the American Alligator in a zoo setting. The information provided is basic with the purpose to inspire and educate on general facts and conservation practices.
- 3. Bibliography

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