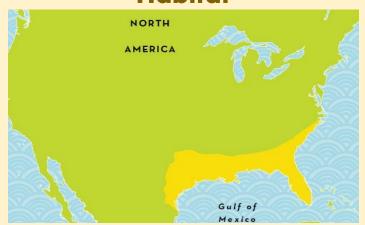
# American Alligator; AKA the swamp puppy

Alligator mississippiensis

### Habitat



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



#### **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.

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

#### 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.



### **Diet**

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

Alligators will even eat other alligators.

- 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

- American Alligator. National Geographic Kids. [accessed 2024 Jan 18]. <a href="https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/facts/american-alligator">https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/facts/american-alligator</a>
- Alligator facts. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. [accessed 2024 Jan 18]. <a href="https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/alligator/facts/">https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/alligator/facts/</a>
- Bettendorf E, Fairhurst L. 2012 Mar. Champs of Chomp: Saltwater crocodiles are bite-force kings. Florida State University. [accessed 2024 Jan 19].https://www.fsu.edu/indexTOFStory.html?lead.erickson
- Rudy LJ. 2022 July 8. 15 Amazing facts about alligators. Treehugger. [accessed 2024 Jan 19]. <a href="https://www.treehugger.com/alligator-facts-5119214">https://www.treehugger.com/alligator-facts-5119214</a>
- Wummer B. 2016 Apr 14. Gator eats another gator in Lakeland. [accessed 2024 Jan 18]. KGW8 https://www.kgw.com/article/life/animals/gator-eats-another-gator-in-lakeland/67-132671208