

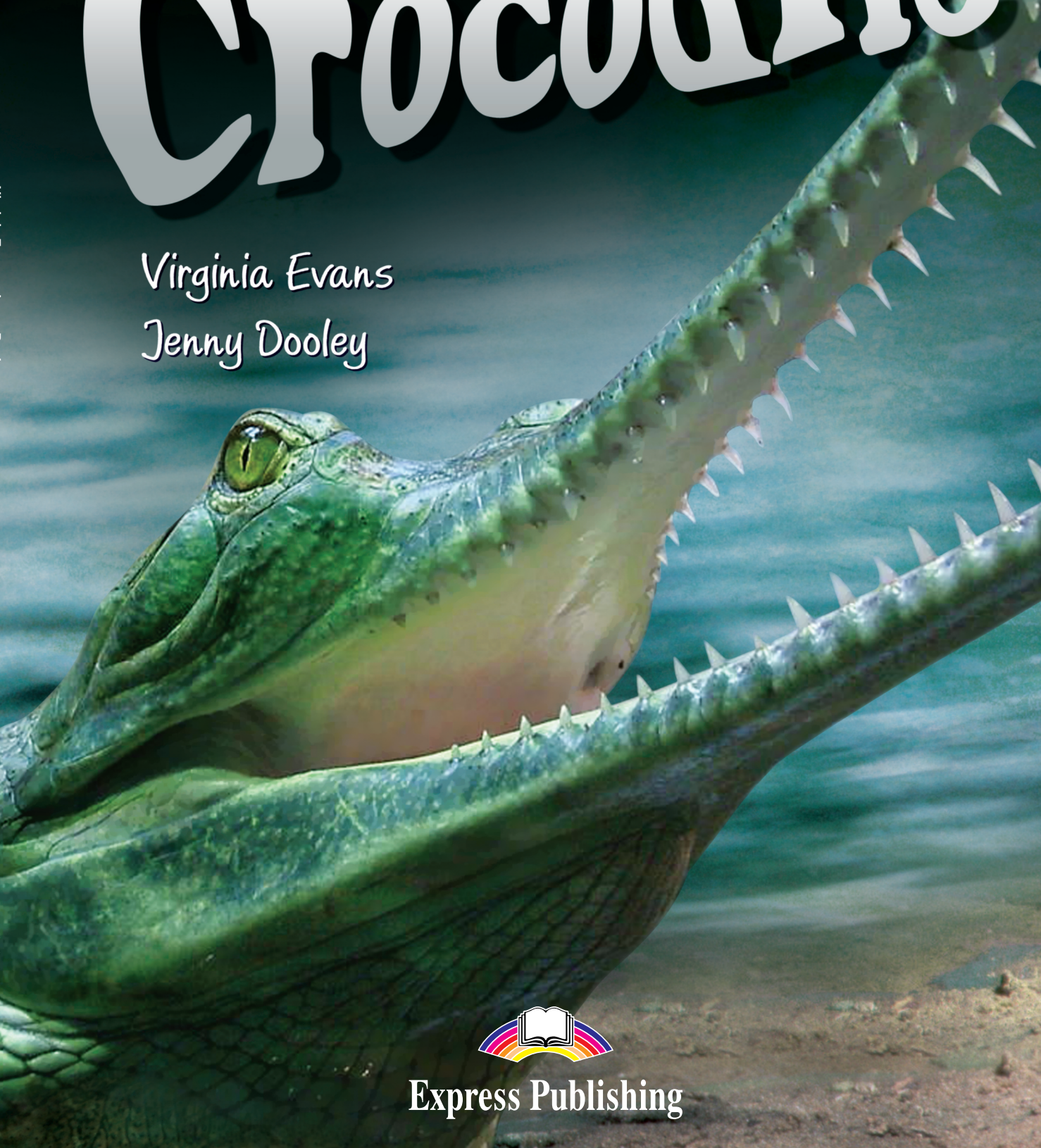
DISCOVER
our AMAZING
WORLD

CLIL READERS

Gharial Crocodiles

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Crocodiles vs Dinosaurs

Crocodiles, or “living dinosaurs” as they are often called, date back millions of years. They are thought to be closely related to dinosaurs, but what has helped crocodiles outlive these long-extinct reptiles?

Crocodiles’ ability to adapt to changes in the environment helped them to survive conditions dinosaurs could not. For one, they adapt well to temperature change. In addition, they can go long periods of time without eating. Dinosaurs could not do that. When an asteroid hit the Earth, the temperatures in and out of the water dropped. Scientists think the dinosaurs were warm-blooded. Maintaining a high body temperature would have required a lot of energy. This energy came from food. But since everything was dying, there was not much to eat. The dinosaurs could not maintain their body temperature.

This, combined with a lack of food, contributed to their end.

However, unlike dinosaurs, crocodiles are cold-blooded. They do not have to maintain a high body temperature. In addition, they can slow their bodily processes down. Their bodies can redirect blood flow away from non-essential organs and tissues. As a result, their bodies use less energy than the dinosaurs’ did. The crocodiles did not have to eat as much. In fact, some crocodiles can live for a year without a meal. At the time of the asteroid impact, this ability would have been priceless.



Crocodylia, a reptile order, consists of the “true crocodiles”, alligators, caimans, and gharials. Sometimes the word “crocodiles” is used to refer to all of them. However, the most accurate term is “crocodilians”:

The gharial is an Indian crocodilian which is the only surviving species of the family Gavialidae (a family of reptiles). Gharials are one of the most unique crocodilian species. Their appearance is quite unusual compared to other crocodilians. They are almost as large as Australian saltwater crocodiles. However, their diet differs because of one defining characteristic: their long, narrow snout. These creatures cannot eat large animals. They stick with small aquatic animals. But although they pose little threat to humans, the survival of gharials is under threat. They are extremely rare in the wild, and they may soon become extinct.

Man-Eating Carnivore?

Word Bank

(pp. 8-9)

massive (adj) = huge

average (adj) = usual; typical

measure (v) = to be of a particular size

weigh (v) = to have a particular weight

fierce (adj) = aggressive; strong

lie in wait (phr) = to hide in a place and wait to attack

wander (v) = to walk without a specific purpose

attack (v) = to use violence against

prey (n) = an animal hunted and killed for food

ferocious (adj) = violent; aggressive

carnivore (n) = an animal that eats meat

broad (adj) = wide

spacious (adj) = large; with a lot of room

tear apart (phr v) = to pull sth (violently) to pieces

swallow (v) = to cause food, drink, etc. to pass from your mouth into your stomach

with ease (phr) = without difficulty

allow (v) = to let

power (n) = force; strength

bite (n) = the act of cutting sth with your teeth

crush (v) = to squash; to squeeze

a piece of cake (phr) = sth that is very easy to do

feature (n) = a part of the face; a characteristic

powerful (adj) = strong

essential (adj) = important

(pp. 10-11)

distinctive (adj) = characteristic; unique

physical feature (phr) = an aspect of appearance

entire (adj) = whole

base (n) = the lowest part of sth

needle-like teeth (phr) = thin, hard, pointed teeth

sharp (adj) = able to cut through sth easily

threatening (adj) = likely to harm

sizeable (adj) = large

rumor (n) = information that may or may not be true; gossip

reputation (n) = fame

evidence (n) = proof

back up (phr v) = to support

claim (n) = saying that sth is the case without proving it

Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) you think best completes each sentences.

- 1 Gharials are

A man-eaters	C prey
B shy	D fierce hunters
- 2 Gharials are creatures!

A massive	C small
B average	D invisible
- 3 Gharials have a snout.

A wide, V-shaped	C short, thin
B short, rounded	D long, narrow

b) Listen, read and check.

While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and mark a ✓ next to the true statements about gharials.

- 1 They hunt small prey.
- 2 They have wide, V-shaped snouts.
- 3 They have long, narrow snouts.
- 4 Adult gharials' snouts are 5.5 times as long as they are wide.
- 5 As the gharial gets older, its snout gets shorter.
- 6 They have more than a hundred sharp, needle-like teeth.
- 7 They can hold onto large prey easily.
- 8 They are man-eaters.
- 9 They are very shy.
- 10 Gharials have a bad reputation.

3 Match the beginnings of the sentences to their endings.

- 1 The rivers of Nepal and India
- 2 Crushing bone is
- 3 Crocodiles with wide snouts
- 4 Broad, V-shaped snouts are
- 5 Crocodilians are considered to be
- 6 Inside the gharial's mouth
- 7 Gharials

- A are known to be shy.
- B are at least 100 needle-like teeth.
- C are home to the gharial.
- D really easy for some crocodiles.
- E have spacious mouths.
- F ferocious, man-eating carnivores.
- G perfect for catching large prey.

4 Choose the best answer A, B, C or D for the following questions.

- 1 How much does an adult gharial weigh?
 - A up to 220 pounds
 - B up to 22 pounds
 - C up to 2,200 pounds
- 2 What do crocodiles have that gharials and false gharials do not?
 - A broad, V-shaped snouts
 - B long, narrow snouts
 - C short, broad snouts
- 3 What is essential for hunting large prey?
 - A a long, narrow snout
 - B a large mouth and a powerful bite
 - C small, pointy teeth
- 4 How does a gharial's snout change with age?
 - A It grows bigger.
 - B It grows thicker.
 - C It grows thinner.
- 5 Why can't gharials hold onto large prey very well?
 - A They are very small and weak.
 - B Their teeth are not sharp enough.
 - C They don't have the right snout shape.

5 Use the following verbs to fill in the gaps: catching, allows, measures, lying.

- 1 You will not find the gharial in wait for an animal to wander by.
- 2 The structure of their snout some crocodile species to put a lot of power into their bite.
- 3 V-shaped snouts are perfect for both big and small animals.
- 4 The adult gharial more than three meters in length.

After-Reading activities

6 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY:


Use the words in the list to replace the words/phrases in bold.

- prey • carnivores • threatening • evidence
- reputation • massive • essential

- 1 Many crocodiles grow to be **very large**.
.....
- 2 People believe they have **proof** that gharials are man-eaters.
- 3 A large mouth and powerful bite are **necessary** for catching large animals.
- 4 All species of crocodiles are **meat-eaters**.
.....
- 5 Gharials have a bad **image**.
- 6 Gharials are not very **dangerous** to large animals or humans.
- 7 The gharial usually hunts smaller **animals to eat**.
.....

Review

Listening Activities

1  Listen to a dialogue about gharial crocodiles. For questions 1-4 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

- 1 What are the speakers mainly discussing?
 - A Why the gharial is not dangerous to humans.
 - B The types of crocodiles that eat large animals.
 - C How gharials catch their food in the water.
 - D The similarities between gharials and other crocodiles.

- 2 How does the man react to hearing that gharial crocodiles do not eat humans?
 - A With doubt.
 - B With surprise.
 - C With confusion.
 - D With boredom.

- 3 What does the woman imply when she says this: "The gharial is actually quite timid... compared to most crocodiles, that is"?
 - A The gharial is less timid than other species of crocodiles.
 - B The gharial is still a dangerous animal.
 - C The gharial is not as interesting as other crocodiles.
 - D The gharial is unable to compete with other crocodiles.

- 4 Why is the gharial's snout perfect for catching fish?
 - A It can move up and down very quickly.
 - B It is big enough to hold many fish at once.
 - C Its length allows it to get fish that are far away.
 - D Its thinness reduces the resistance against it.

Amazing facts

Did you know?



Gharials have
1) teeth.

Gharials are sometimes called
2) "....." and (of course) false gharials are sometimes called "false gavials".

Gharials and false gharials both have 3) that help them to move through the water easily.

Crocodiles can live to be 40-50 years old 4)

The gharial has a 5) body shape which helps it to move through the water easily.

Gharials have
6) that run along the top of their long, flat tails.

Many people are afraid of false gharials, but there have been very few reports of 7) on humans.

The false gharial is also
8) "the Malayan gharial".

- 1 Use words from the list to fill in the gaps.
- in the wild • gavials • attacks • inhabited
 - in addition • razor-sharp • cylindrical
 - spines • known as • webbed toes

- 2 **ICT** In groups, collect facts about gharial crocodiles. Prepare a Yes/No quiz for your classmates.

False gharials once
9) Thailand, but they've been wiped out in that country because of the destruction of their habitat.



10) to rivers, false gharials also live in swamps and lakes.

Gharial Crocodiles

Uncover the amazing world of gharial crocodiles and find out why they face an uncertain future.

Learn about the lifecycle of these critically endangered crocodilians through captivating images, engaging stories and interesting facts.

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- Reader
- Multi-ROM

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