



Crocodile Characteristics

Did you know that there are more than a dozen different species of crocodiles? Learn all about these riveting reptiles as you create a paper crocodile model!

TEKS:

SCI 5.10 A: The student is expected to compare the structures and functions of different species that help them live and survive in a specific environment such as hooves on prairie animals or webbed feet in aquatic animals.

SCI 7.3 B: The student is expected to use models to represent aspects of the natural world such as human body systems and plant and animal cells.

Materials:

- Brass fastener
- Crocodile template (attached)
- Glue or tape
- Googly eye
- Green cardstock
- Markers
- Scissors
- White cardstock

How To:

1. Cut out both pieces of the Crocodile Template and use a marker to trace them onto a sheet of green cardstock.
2. Cut out the traced Crocodile Template. One part represents the crocodile's upper jaw, and one part represents the crocodile's lower jaw.
3. Cut a strip of white cardstock that is approximately 1.5 inches wide.
4. Cut this strip of cardstock into 10-15 triangles to represent the crocodile's teeth for its upper and lower jaw.
5. Glue the triangular teeth to the crocodile's upper and lower jaw, as shown in the photo below.

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6. Add a googly eye to the crocodile.
7. Connect the upper and lower jaws together with a brass fastener.
8. Your crocodile is complete! Read the STEM Explanation below to learn all about crocodiles.

STEM Explanation:

Crocodiles live all over the world, in North America, South America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. The Ancient Egyptians had a special relationship with crocodiles that lived in the Nile. Crocodiles were both threatening to the Egyptians, but they were also respected. Many believed that the ancient Egyptians raised baby crocodiles by the thousands, and one of the gods they worshipped, Sobek, was represented with the face of a crocodile.

Crocodiles look very similar to their cousin the alligator, but have their own special characteristics and history. Read more about these "crocodile characteristics" below:

- Crocodiles are the biggest reptiles in the world! They can grow to be over 20 feet long.
- Crocodiles have long, pointed snouts shaped like a "V" which help them catch many different types of prey.
- A crocodile's upper and lower jaws are the same size. This makes it easy for us to see all of their teeth!
- Crocodiles have 60-110 teeth total, and when a crocodile loses a tooth, a new one re-grows in its place. A crocodile can go through over 4,000 teeth in its lifetime!
- Crocodiles can live in both freshwater and saltwater because they have special salt glands on their tongue that help them filter salt out of water. Saltwater crocodiles have the strongest bite.
- Crocodiles have a long lifespan, with some species living as long as 75 years!

Career Connection:

Zoologists are animal experts! They may observe a particular species of animal or group of species, either in the wild or in captivity. Zoologists learn about animals' physical characteristics, diets, behaviors, and the impacts humans have on them.

Resources:

<http://nikarella.wordpress.com/2011/08/26/alligator-storytime/>

<http://animals.howstuffworks.com/reptiles/alligator-vs-crocodile1.htm>

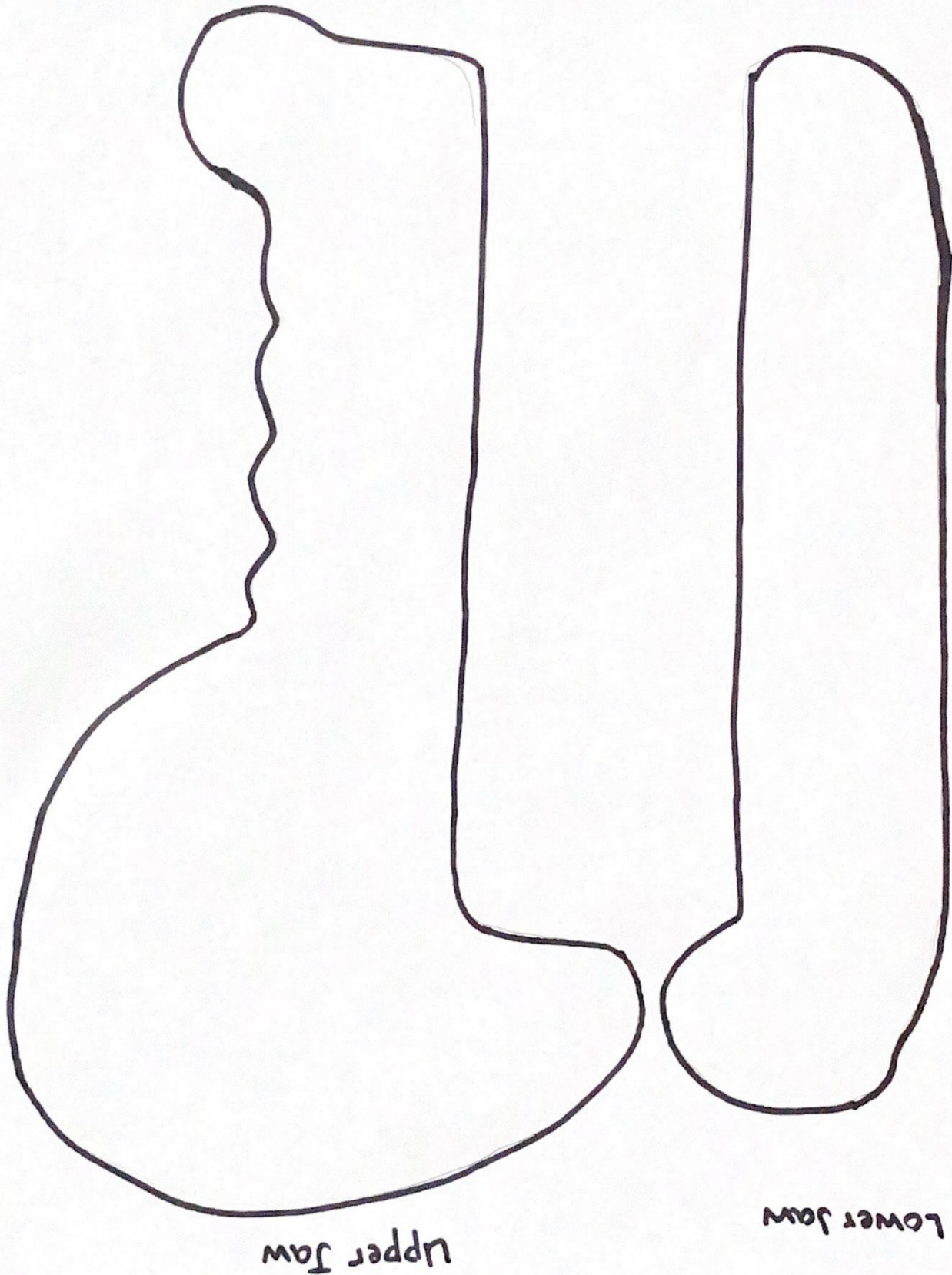
<https://news.berkeley.edu/2021/03/02/crocodile-mummies/>

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Crocodile Template



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