

READING

1 Listen and read. While you read, notice the details that support the main ideas. 🔊 2.3

CROCODILES: The Truth Exposed

Crocodiles aren't slimy. They don't sting or drink your blood like some insects do. They do have a lot of sharp teeth, but no venomous fangs. So why do people fear crocodiles? Well, crocodiles are very big and very strong. They can sometimes be aggressive. They look scary and their skin is tough.

Although crocodiles are reptiles and may look like big lizards, they are more closely related to birds. They also share some behaviors with birds. Like some birds, crocodiles watch their nests. They also protect their young for up to two years—until they're old enough to survive on their own. Some crocodiles even hold food in their mouths to feed their young, just like birds do.

Crocodiles are good parents. Crocodile moms carry their babies in their mouths to protect them from harm. They teach them how to swim, just like mother ducks teach their ducklings. If an adult crocodile sees that a baby croc is in danger, it will protect the baby, even if they are not related.

This gives us a different picture of crocodiles. Furthermore, many cultures value and respect them. Some believe that crocodiles are their ancestors. Or that living near them brings a good life. They know that crocodiles are beneficial to the ecosystem.

Experts tell us that crocodiles are smart, and even emotional, creatures. In places like Australia, where many crocodiles live, people learn how to behave safely. For example, people don't feed crocodiles or use the same place on riverbanks to wash their clothes. They know that crocodiles recognize and remember repeated events.

Because of their huge size and sharp teeth, many people are scared of crocodiles. However, it's false that all crocodiles bite and hurt people. The truth is most crocodiles won't attack people and, like snakes, prefer to stay away from humans when they can.

A Nile crocodile carrying its baby in its mouth, Kenya



2 Read. Check (✓) **T** (True) or **F** (False). Then correct the false statements.

	T	F
1. Crocodiles are big and strong reptiles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Crocodiles put their babies in their mouths to eat them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Crocodiles help only their own babies when they're in danger.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Some people believe crocodiles are good.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Crocodiles are not intelligent animals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Most crocodiles don't like to be near people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 Identifying Supporting Details Complete the chart with details about birds and crocodiles. Use your own knowledge, information from the text, or other sources.

	Appearance	Habitat	Behavior
Birds	beak,	seashore,	build nests,
Crocodiles			

4 Answer the questions.

1. What is one thing you misunderstood about crocodiles?

2. What are two interesting facts you learned about crocodiles?

3. How can we change the way we think about crocodiles?
