Alligators and Crocodiles

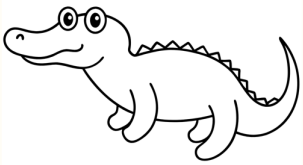
Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: To **compare**, tell how things are the **same**. To **contrast**, tell how they are **different**. Signal words: *both, also, but, however, unlike*.

Read both texts. Underline what they have in common in one colour and differences in another.

Alligators



Alligators are large reptiles with thick, scaly skin. They have wide, rounded snouts shaped like the letter U. When an alligator closes its mouth, you usually cannot see its bottom teeth.

Alligators live mostly in fresh water, such as swamps, rivers and lakes. Wild alligators are found in the southeastern United States and in China. Like all reptiles, they lay eggs. A mother alligator builds a nest of mud and plants and guards her eggs.

Crocodiles

Crocodiles are also large reptiles with thick, scaly skin. Their snouts are long and pointed, shaped like the letter V. When a crocodile closes its mouth, some of its bottom teeth still stick out.

Many crocodiles can live in salt water as well as fresh water, so they are found near coasts, rivers and swamps in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas. Crocodiles lay eggs too, and mothers guard their nests carefully.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What shape is an alligator's snout?

(a) U-shaped and wide
(b) V-shaped and pointed
(c) Square

2. Which animal shows bottom teeth when its mouth is closed?

(a) The alligator
(b) The crocodile
(c) Both

3. How are alligators and crocodiles alike?

(a) Both live only in salt water.
(b) Both are reptiles that lay eggs.
(c) Both have U-shaped snouts.

4. Where do many crocodiles live that alligators usually don't?

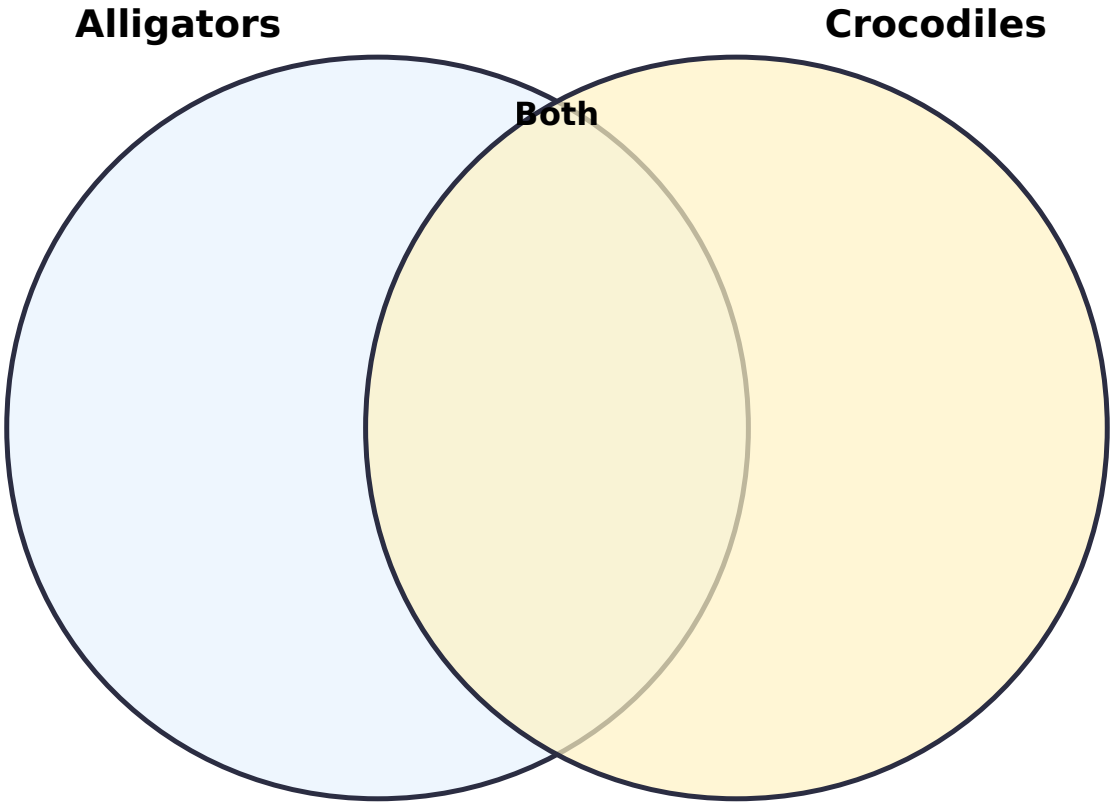
(a) In salt water near coasts
(b) In deserts
(c) In trees

Alligators and Crocodiles

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2. Compare them

Fill in the Venn diagram with facts from both passages.



Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

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- (a) **In salt water near coasts**
- (b) In deserts
- (c) In trees

2. Compare them

Sample answers. Answers will vary.

