Fun Facts, Puzzles and Games about Florida's State Reptile!
The American alligator and dinosaurs are cousins. Both alligators and dinosaurs descended from a common ancestor more than 200 million years ago.

An alligator can live for more than 50 years in captivity. The oldest alligator in captivity is over 76 years old and lives in a zoo in Siberia.

There are around 1.2 million alligators in Florida.

A female alligator can lay up to 50 eggs at a time.

An alligator has roughly 80 teeth in its mouth at one time. As the teeth wear down they are replaced with new teeth. An average alligator can go through 2,000 to 3,000 teeth in a lifetime.

There are differences between alligators and crocodiles. Most noticeably, when an alligator’s mouth is closed you cannot see its teeth; when a crocodile’s mouth is closed the fourth tooth on its lower jaw sticks out.

An alligator has five toes on its front feet and four webbed toes on its back feet which help it swim.

An alligator can rip and swallow its food but it cannot chew.

An alligator can stay underwater without air for more than two hours.

Never approach or feed an alligator. Feeding alligators makes them lose their fear of humans. Feeding an alligator is against the law.
An alligator capturing a frog.

Credit: Andrea Westmoreland, Wikipedia.org.

Baby American alligators, showing the distinctive yellow stripes found on young alligators.

Wikipedia.org

A female alligator guards her eggs in the nest she built from vegetation.

State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory

Male alligators bellow during the spring to attract females and to warn away other males.

State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.com

A large male alligator basking in the sun.

Wikipedia.org

A close look at an alligator in Florida’s Gatorland.

Wikipedia.org

Alligators can leap upward from the water to capture food.
The alligator has written a message in the mud on this riverbank, but he wants you to guess one word of the message! Guess another word for each word in the list of clues, and the letters in the green boxes will give you the missing word of the message!

I may be fun and interesting to look at, but don’t ever ______ me!

**Clues:**

1. Blossom
2. Fairy
3. Green
4. Sunrise

Find your way through the Puzzle, then COLOR ME!

Start

Finish

Puzzle answers on page 8.
Alligator Word Scramble

Can you unscramble the color words below to fill in the blanks?

litpsere revsri rtluets wolswla kbsa hetet

Alligators are _________ and like to live in ______, lakes and swamps. They eat mainly fish, _______, and some mammals. They can rip and ________ their food but not chew. Alligators ________ in the sun to keep warm. An alligator has about 80 ________ that are replaced as they wear down.
This young alligator is LOST in the SWAMP! Can you help him find the way HOME and go around the dangers?

- Danger! Quicksand Pit!
- Look Out! Great Blue Heron!
- Whirlpool!!
- Beware! Large Snake!
- Go Back! Snapping Turtle!
- Danger! Large Alligator!

HOME!
Can you Match the Words?

Match the right word to the correct answer! Write the LETTER of the word on the line next to the ANSWER you think is correct!

A: Chew
B: Reptiles
C: Diet
D: Webbed
E: Feet
F: Bask
G: Dinosaurs
H: Underwater
I: Brackish
J: Humans

An alligator can live in fresh and this kind of water.
An alligator’s back feet are this.
For up to two hours an alligator can stay here.
Alligators are cousins of these.
Fish, turtles, various mammals and birds are some of this for an alligator.
Alligators can’t do this to their food.
This is what alligators like to do when the sun is shining.
Feeding alligators can make them lose fear of these.
An adult male alligator can be up to 14 of these.
An alligator is one kind of these.

Puzzle answers on page 8.