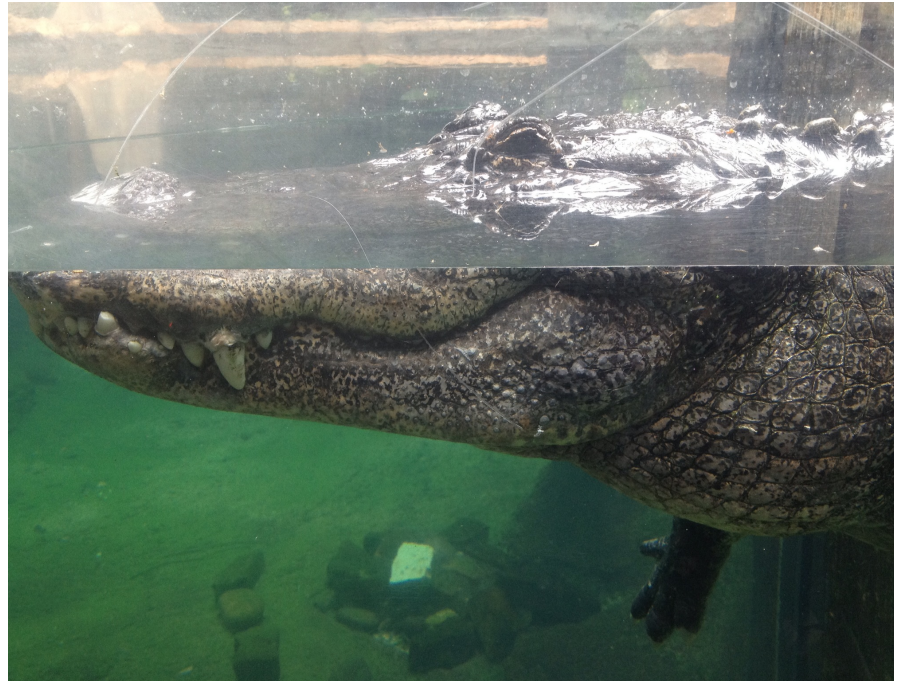


American Alligator

Alligator mississippiensis



Range: Southeastern U.S.

Size: ♂: 71-81cm (40-64 in)

♀: 71-81cm (36-48in)

Weight: ♂: 227 kg (500 lbs)

♀: 91kg (200lbs)

Teeth: 74-80

Habitat: freshwater prefers marshes and swamps

Incubation: 50 - 58 days

Eggs: up to 50

Dispersal: 2 to 3 years

Sexual maturity: 100 cm (72 in)

Nest: fresh vegetation. Mounds 3' tall

Social: young live in groups adults more solitary

Breeding: polygynous

Movement: generally sedentary

Food: small to medium sized vertebrates

IUCN: least concern

Subspecies: monotypic

Longevity: captive: 65-80 years

Wild: 50 years

Order: Crocodylia Family: Alligatoridae

The American alligator is a rare success story of an endangered animal not only saved from extinction but now thriving. State and federal protections, habitat preservation efforts, and reduced demand for alligator products have improved the species' wild population to more than one million and growing today.

One interesting aspect of alligator biology is that they undergo periods of dormancy when the weather is cold. They excavate a depression called a “gator hole” along a waterway and use it during dormancy.