

National Geographic Kids Reader: Alligators and Crocodiles

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before your child shares this book with you, look at the front cover and read the title. Turn to pages 4 and 5 and discuss which image shows an alligator and which shows crocodile. If your child knows, ask them to explain their ideas, then look up the answer at the bottom of page 5. Discuss any experiences seeing or learning about crocodiles or alligators - at the zoo or from other reading/ wildlife films.
- Look through the images together and read the names of the creatures. Talk about any that your child is particularly interested in.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read more complex information books:
 - Help children read new creature names and any unfamiliar words, e.g. *endangered*, *carnivores*. Talk about the words and their meanings.
 - Show your interest in the information and the facts that your child reads.
 - Encourage them to talk about what they have read, answering simple questions that you ask them at the end of small sections.
 - Challenge children to ask you questions, based on their reading.
 - Challenge them to find the answers to the quiz by looking for specific words or sections of information using skimming and scanning, and organisational features like the contents.
 - Encourage them to use the pictures to develop their understanding.
 - Give them lots of praise and encouragement!
- Discuss how crocodiles and alligators differ, and how their bodies are adapted to survive in the wild.

Pronunciation guide: Schneider's (sh-neye-ders), caiman (cay-man), Morelet's (more-let's), gharial (gar-ee-al)