

are You hungry? amazing alligator facts



In *The Secret of Skullcracker Swamp*, Tabby and her father have a frightening encounter with an alligator. What is the first thing you think about when you hear the word “alligator?” Probably that BIG mouth with those BIG teeth! Here are some fascinating facts about the eating habits of alligators!

- Alligators will eat just about anything that moves! They wait for something interesting to walk or swim near them, and then POW!—they grab it.

- When lurking around in the water looking for prey, only the eyes and nostrils of an alligator can be seen.

- Alligators have sensitive skin sensors that let them know when anything has entered the water near them. They actually feel the vibrations in the water!

- Alligators swallow small prey whole. They will drag larger prey underwater to drown it, but must come back up above water to swallow it.

- Alligators have very powerful jaws, which allows them to break bones or crush the shells of prey.

- Alligators are cold-blooded animals. They don’t have to eat very often because they don’t have to spend a lot of energy maintaining a high body temperature like warm-blooded animals.

- Alligators living in the wild usually eat once a week. They store fat in their tails. When living on its fat reserves, an alligator can go more than two years between meals!

- An alligator’s tail is very powerful! Alligators use their tails to push themselves up out of the water to grab small animals from low tree branches.

