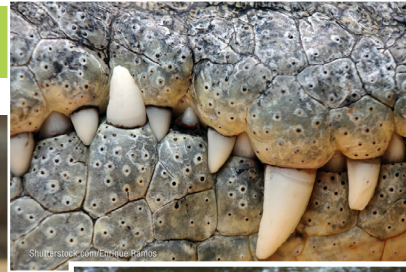
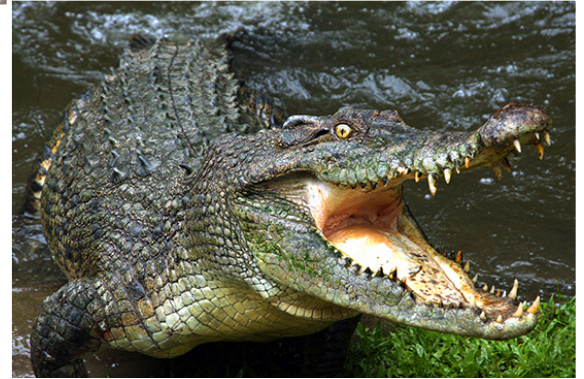


# CROCODILES



Crocodiles can lose teeth, but they are quickly replaced. Some have been known to lose up to 8,000 teeth in a lifetime.



One glance at a crocodile, and the first thing you will probably notice is its large teeth, which may make you think it's smiling at you. If you were to take the time to count them all you would discover that crocodiles have twenty-four teeth, but surprisingly they don't use them for chewing like you or I do. Instead, a crocodile's teeth were made for grasping and crushing their food.

Victims of their bite hardly ever escape, and that's because the crocodile is a world champion biter. You and I can bite down on something with a force of 150–200 pounds per square inch (psi), but a croc can bite down with a force of 3,700 psi. That means a crocodile has almost 20 times the jaw strength that we have! Since it's impossible to actually chew with their teeth, they swallow rocks in order to help with digestion. In addition to crushing and grinding up food in their stomach, the rocks help balance the crocodile in the water and also add to their weight, allowing them to remain underwater for up to an hour at a time. This ability, along with their really fast swimming skills, makes the crocodile extremely dangerous.

But like all other animals, crocodiles have a weakness. Although they can close their mouths with amazing force, it takes hardly any force at all to prevent them from opening their mouth. In fact, if you were brave enough to place a rubber band around its snout, the crocodile's jaws would not be strong enough to open its mouth! Isn't it amazing that a simple little rubber band could do that?



## Bible Lesson

You can learn an important lesson from the crocodile. Just like they keep a tight grip on their prey, you should also keep a tight grip . . . on Jesus! He will never let you go, but He won't force you to keep holding onto Him. Why not make a decision today—to hold on to Jesus!

**“Nevertheless I am continually with You;  
You hold me by my right hand.”**

*Psalm 73:23 (NKJV)*

## IT'S NO SECRET

Using the clues, fill in the blanks, then use the circled letters to discover exactly what kind of animal a crocodile really is.

1. Crocodiles can't    .
2. They can swim   .
3. They can stay under water for an   .
4. Crocodiles swallow rocks, which help to give them   .
5. The rocks also help them    food.
6. You have to be    to approach a croc.
7. Crocs close their mouths with a lot of   .
8. Rubber bands can    a croc from opening its mouth.
9. Crocs can grow their    back.

Mystery Word:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

ANSWERS: 1. CHEW 2. FAST 3. HOUR 4. BALANCE 5. DIGEST 6. BRAVE 7. FORCE 8. PREVENT 9. TEETH  
MYSTERY WORD: CARNIVORE