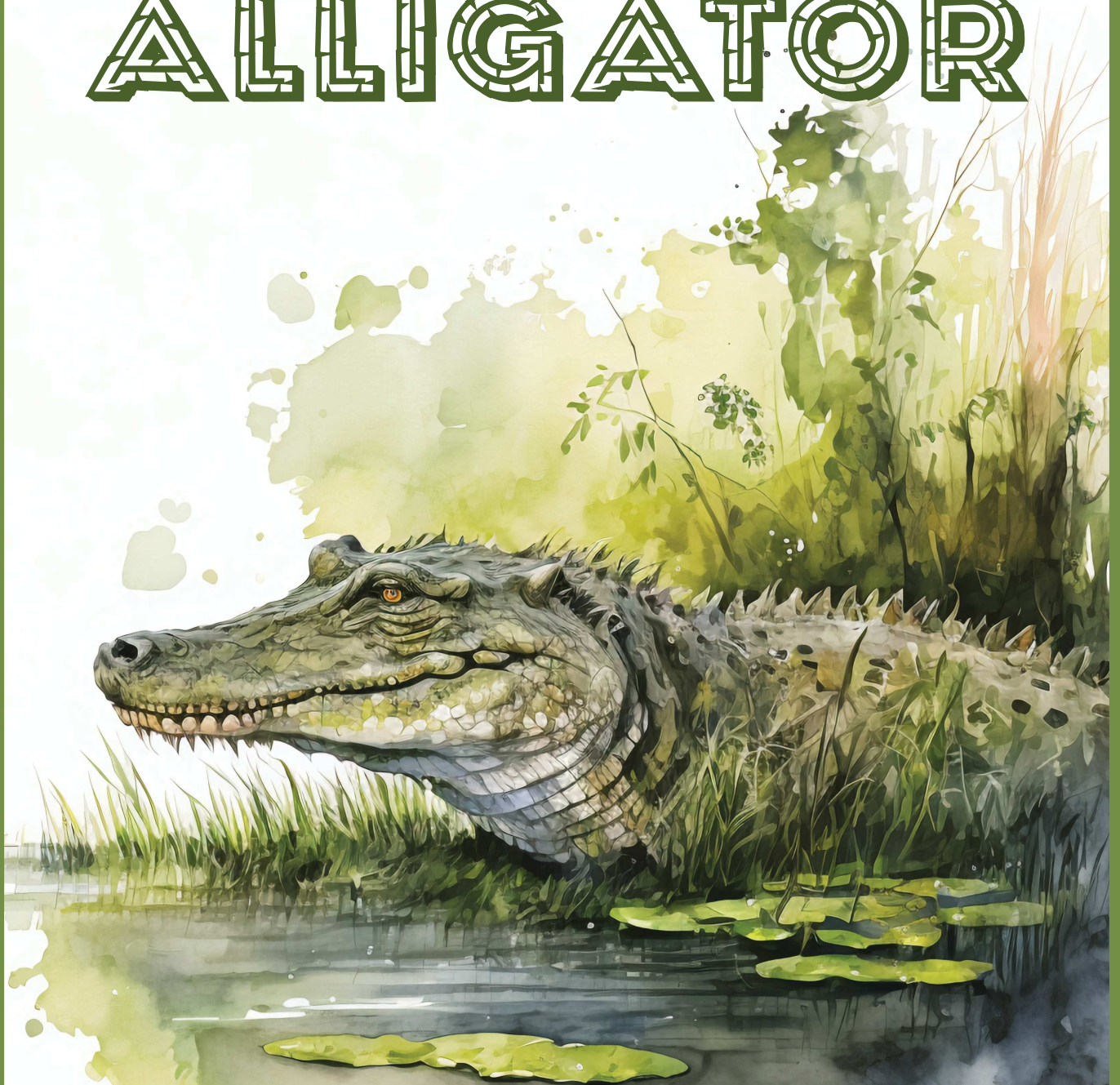


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# AMERICAN ALLIGATOR



# GETTING TO KNOW...

## THE AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

Region & Habitat	Coastal wetlands of the U.S. southeast
Classification	Reptile
Size	Larger males are up to 18 ft. and can weigh up to 1,000 lbs.
Nocturnal or Diurnal	Both
Conservation Status	Threatened; 1 million and growing in the wild
Average Lifespan	30-50 years
Gestational Period	Eggs are incubated for roughly 65 days
Diet	Carnivore
Scientific name	Alligator Mississippiensis
Fun Fact	As an American alligator's teeth wear down or fall out, new ones come in. They can go through 3,000 teeth in a lifetime.

American alligators have a bite force of about 2,125 PSI (pounds per square inch) – very strong but not as strong as a crocodile (the Nile crocodile has an estimated bite force up to 5,000 PSI)! With their armored, lizard-like bodies, muscular tails, and powerful jaws they definitely resemble something from a distant past. The species, scientists say, has survived for over 150 million years, managing to avoid extinction 65 million years ago when their prehistoric contemporaries, the dinosaurs, died off.

So what's the difference between alligators and crocodiles? Alligators are mostly found in the Americas and China while crocodiles can be found across the globe. There are also some visible differences. When their mouths are shut, you generally can't see the bottom teeth on an alligator, but you can see the bottom teeth on a crocodile. Alligators are more of a dark gray color with a rounded snout and crocodiles are a lighter gray to olive green color with a pointy snout.

Territorial by nature, the American Alligator will fight other alligators to defend their young. Speaking of young gators, if the temperature drops below 86°F, all eggs will turn out to be female alligators. If the temperature rises to 93°F or above, all eggs will turn out to be male.

# WORD SEARCH

L F S M U S C U L A R R  
K F Z D Y F A S T H C R  
T E E T H N O H F Q U W  
E J O J R E P T I L E E  
A M E R I C A N P O B T  
F A L L I G A T O R W L  
W R R M B X L Q S K Z A  
U B C S B H T A E F L N  
D F G W A T E R R A D D  
Q G H W T D S P V G R S  
E C A R N I V O R E E C  
P R E H I S T O R I C Q

American  
Alligator  
Reptile

Eggs  
Wetlands  
Teeth

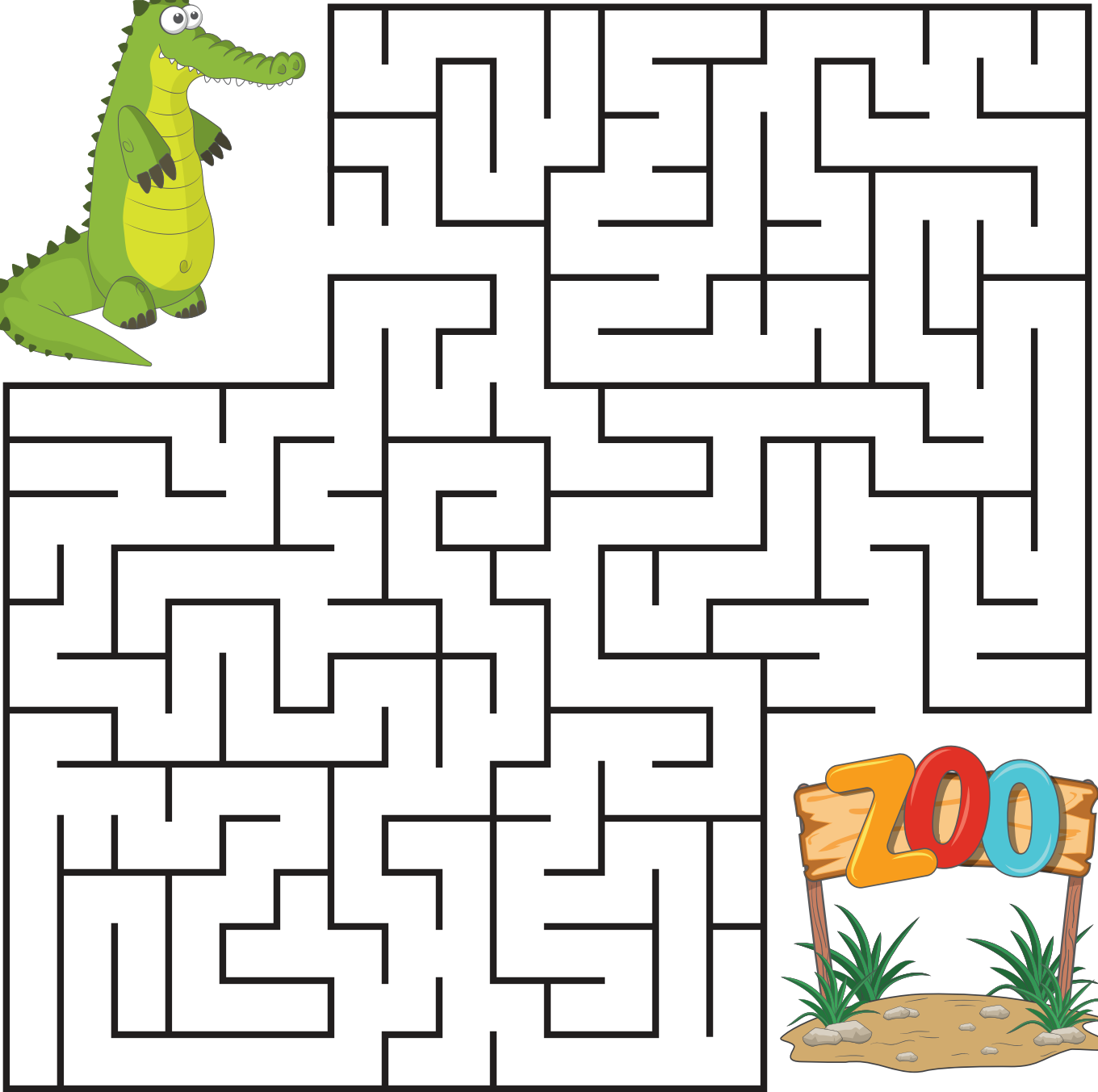
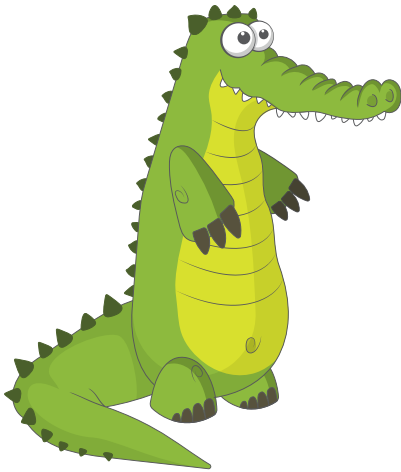
Large  
Muscular  
Prehistoric

Fast  
Water  
Carnivore

# CONNECT THE DOTS



# ALLIGATOR MAZE



# SOLUTION

