



SALTWATER CROCODILE

CROCODYLUS POROSUS

DID YOU KNOW?

The temperature of a crocodile's nest determines if boys or girls are born!

If the nest is less than 30°C the hatchlings will all be female. If the above 32°C they will all be males.

WHERE AT AQWA?

Smile at a baby crocodile in AQWA's Far North

SIZE:<700CM

DIET:FISH, BIRDS, MAMMALS,

MAIN PREDATOR (WHEN YOUNG) MONITOR LIZARDS, SNAKES, EAGLES

HABITAT: COASTAL AREAS AND RIVERS

FOUND: SOUTHEAST ASIA, NORTHERN AUSTRALIA, INDIA

A HOLE LOT OF REASONS

The scientific name of the saltwater crocodile, *Crocodylus porosus*, means 'pored crocodile'. 'Porosus' refers to the tiny pores found all over a crocodile's skull and jaws. The pores in the skull help to reduce the weight of the skull without reducing its power. The pores also have blood vessels that connect to sensory bumps that detect changes in water pressure- such as prey swimming.

OLDER THAN DINOSAURS!

Crocodiles are the world's largest reptiles and have been around for over 200 million years! The Saltwater crocodile is the largest crocodile in the world. It may grow to 7m long, weigh over 1000kgs and live for over 75 years.

THE CROCODILE ROLL

Crocodiles grab their prey and move to deep water, where they repeatedly roll to try and drown or break the neck of the prey. Instead of chewing their food they swallow it in large chunks. To break down their chunky food, crocodiles swallow rocks! The rocks help to grind up the food in their stomach, getting more nutrients out of it. Crocodiles eat a variety of food such as small mammals, birds, fish and even cattle.

IT'S ALL IN THE TAIL

The tail makes up half of a saltwater crocodiles body! When swimming the muscular tail thrusts from side to side to propel them through the water. The tail is also used to store fat! They can live off their stockpile of tail fat for up to 2 years!

FRESHWATER SALTIES

Although they are named 'Saltwater' crocodiles, they can be found 240km upstream in fresh water.