# Alligators and Crocodiles 

The American alligator is the official reptile of Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. With millions of alligators living in the southeastern United States, it has become a symbol of the
 vast wilderness, swamps, and lakes in that part of the country. There are often stories of giant alligators being seen or captured. Many of these tales claim the gators measure 15, 20, or even 28 feet long. These are mostly tall tales. For example, the current longest Florida gator
 officially measured was 14 feet, 3.5 inches long ( 4.36 meters). It was caught from Lake Washington in Brevard County.

South Florida is the only place on the planet where alligators and crocodiles live together in the wild. In all other places, alligators choose to stay in fresh water, while crocodiles live in saltwater habitats. What are other differences between a crocodile and an alligator?

## Your Project Compare the Sizes of Reptiles

Research the largest crocodile ever measured.
Record its length in meters and your source of information. Next, measure your teacher's height in meters. Make sure that both measurements are correct up to the hundredths place.

To see just how big these reptiles are, make life-sized paper models of them by taping together sheets of paper and cutting out their shapes. Draw any other details of the animals. Mark your teacher's height and label the two reptiles'lengths. Then find and label the differences between:

- Your teacher's height and the length of the record Florida alligator

| Record Florida <br> Alligator | Largest <br> Crocodile |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
|  |  |

- Your teacher's height and the length of the largest crocodile
- The lengths of the record Florida alligator and the largest crocodile.

Home of the Best Amusement Parks

Florida attracts more visitors than any other amusement park destinations in the United States. In fact, 7 of the 10 most visited amusement parks are located in Florida. Walt Disney World ${ }^{\circledR}$, which is the largest amusement park in the world, can be found in Orlando. Disney also consistently ranks as not only the most popular in North America but the rest of the world as well.


When the park opened in 1971, the ticket prices were $\$ 1.00$ for children and $\$ 3.50$ for adults. Ticket books for the rides and attractions were sold separately, and contained enough tickets for 7,9, or 11 rides. A single ticket for a premium ride could be purchased for $90 ¢$.

People can also get deals when they buy attraction tickets ahead of time. Tickets are usually offered at lower prices before the peak Florida tourist seasons, such as holidays and spring vacations. People who live in Florida can buy off-season passes for prices that are much lower than what out-of-state residents pay.

## Your Project Make a Brochure for a Theme Park

Imagine that you are the owner of a small theme park. Think of four main attractions that you want to have in the park. Assume that you will offer two kinds of tickets: one for each single ride and another for unlimited rides. Decide on a reasonable price for a single-ride ticket for each attraction. Consider that the prices should be different. Next, based on the single-ride ticket prices, determine a reasonable price for an unlimited-rides ticket. All amounts should be in dollars and cents, for example, $\$ 11.25$.

Make a brochure that presents the following information:

- The names and pictures of the four attractions
- The single-ride ticket price for each attraction
- The unlimited-rides ticket price



# Calorie Information in 

One way to stay healthy is to balance the number of calories you eat and drink with the number of calories you burn during physical activities. Calories are units of energy in foods or drinks. If you consume too many calories, you may risk health problems like heart disease or diabetes.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued new rules to help people keep track of their calorie intake. Now restaurants must include calorie information on their menus so you can plan meals that are best for your health.


## Your Project Plan Your Meal

Suppose that you are ordering food in a restaurant. Choose at least three food items from the menu above. Your goal is to spend between $\$ 10.00$ and $\$ 15.00$ and to consume between 1,000 and 1,500 calories. Find the exact number of calories in your meal, and compare it with your target of 1,000 to 1,500 calories. Find the total cost of your meal.

Make a model of your meal using colored paper or clay. Stick the model on a poster board, which could serve as your placemat. Write the total price and the total calories
 of your meal on the poster board.

## Useful Tools for Traveling

Technology can make traveling much easier. Apps for cell phones and cars give travelers voice-guided, turn-by-turn directions and traffic alerts. There are also apps that estimate travel times and routes that the traveler can choose from.

Many websites provide information to help tourists choose places to visit. There are also websites that show distances from city to city.

| City | Orlando | Miami | Tampa | Key West | Daytona <br> Beach |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Orlando |  | 205.25 | 77.16 | 276.31 | 51.22 |
| Miami | 205.25 |  | 205.82 | 129.67 | 243.68 |
| Tampa | 77.16 | 205.82 |  | 238.32 | 123.1 |
| Key West | 276.31 | 129.67 | 238.32 |  | 325.03 |
| Daytona <br> Beach | 51.22 | 243.68 | 123.1 | 325.03 |  |

## Your Project Make a Travel Diary

Imagine that you are keeping a travel diary on a trip. Write diary entries about fictional trips to at least three cities shown in the table. Describe what you do in each city and write as many details as you can about your adventures. Sketch your favorite places and record the distances that you travel from one city to another. Use one diary page for each city.

Estimate the distance you traveled on your entire trip. Find the actual distance and then compare it with your estimate. Show your work on the last page. Draw or
 design a cover for your diary and place the diary pages inside.

