



Imagine a creature with a strong, scaled body, sharp teeth, and a snout that's simply unforgettable: that's the Chinese alligator for you! This amazing creature, also known as the 'Yangtze alligator', is smaller than its American cousin, but don't let its size fool you. Its body is covered in hard, bumpy scales that are mostly dark grey or black, with a softer underbelly that's a creamy yellow. And did I mention they have around 80 teeth in their strong jaws? Now that's a toothy grin!



Taking a leap from their toothy grins, let's dive into the world where these fabulous creatures live. Chinese alligators are most at home in fresh water environments, like rivers, lakes, and marshes in eastern China. Unfortunately, due to habitat loss, there are now only a few hundred of these alligators left in the wild. But don't worry, many are being taken care of in zoos and breeding centers to help their population grow.

Speaking of growing, Chinese alligators have a fascinating life cycle. After a female lays her eggs, she guards them closely until they hatch, showing just how caring these creatures can be. Once the little alligators are born, they stick with their mom for a while, learning all the alligator tricks of the trade. These little alligators grow up to be quite the hunters, eating fish, snails, and even small mammals!



Now, you might be wondering how these alligators get along with other animals, including us humans. Chinese alligators are generally shy and prefer to stay away from people, but they can defend themselves if they need to with their strong tails and powerful jaws. They play an important role in their ecosystem, controlling the population of certain animals and helping to keep the environment balanced. So remember, while they might look scary, Chinese alligators are a unique and important part of our world's wildlife.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What color are Chinese alligator's scales?
 - A. Yellow or brown
 - B. Blue or black
 - C. Green or brown
 - D. Dark grey or black

- 2) What is the Chinese alligator also known as?
 - A. The Beijing gator
 - B. The Asian alligator
 - C. The Chinese crocodile
 - D. The Yangtze alligator

- 3) Where do Chinese alligators live?
 - A. Rivers, lakes, and forests in northern China
 - B. Estuaries, lagoons, and lakes in western China
 - C. Bays, swamps, and marshes in southern China
 - D. Rivers, lakes, and marshes in eastern China

- 4) What color is the underbelly of a Chinese alligator?
 - A. Orange
 - B. Yellow
 - C. Brown
 - D. White

- 5) Why are many Chinese alligators now in zoos and breeding centers?
 - A. to perform in shows
 - B. to be pets for people
 - C. to help their population grow
 - D. to protect them from predators

- 6) Approximately how many teeth do Chinese Alligators have?
 - A. 120
 - B. 100
 - C. 50
 - D. 80

- 7) Approximately how many Chinese alligators are left in the wild?
 - A. Tens of thousands
 - B. A few thousand
 - C. A few dozen
 - D. A few hundred

- 8) Who guards the Chinese alligator eggs till they hatch?
 - A. Both, male and female alligators
 - B. The older sibling alligators
 - C. The male alligator
 - D. The female alligator

- 9) What do Chinese alligator babies eat?
 - A. Grass, leaves, and fruits
 - B. Fish, snails, and small mammals
 - C. Birds, eggs, and insects
 - D. Nuts, roots, and bark

- 10) What is causing the decrease in wild Chinese alligator populations?
 - A. disease
 - B. habitat loss
 - C. too much hunting
 - D. lack of food

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "There are millions of us Chinese alligators in the wild."



- 12) "My kind is getting smaller in numbers, but there are lots of humans taking care of us."
- 13) "You can find my family in zoos, where they take care of us if we lose our home."
- 14) "My skin is usually dark grey or black, and my underbelly is creamy yellow, like ice-cream!"
- 15) "My scales are smooth and glossy, great for swimming!"
- 16) "We gather in groups of up to a thousand in the wild. It's one big alligator party out there!"
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- 21) "I'm not much into hunting. I prefer a fruit-only diet!"
- 22) "Did you know my snout is very special? It's what makes me different from other alligators."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 23) Chinese alligators eat fish, snails, and small mammals.
- 24) It is great that many Chinese alligators who lost their homes to habitat loss are being taken care of in zoos.
- 25) After a female Chinese alligator lays her eggs, she guards them until they hatch.
- 26) The fact that Chinese alligators eat snails is disgusting.
- 27) Chinese alligators live in fresh water environments.
- 28) Seeing a Chinese alligator in the wild would be a thrilling experience.
- 29) The body of a chinese alligator is covered in hard, bumpy scales.
- 30) There are currently only a few hundred Chinese alligators left in the wild.
- 31) Chinese alligators being smaller than American ones makes them cuter.
- 32) Chinese alligators are one of the most unique looking alligators in the world with their bumpy scales and snout.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 33) Chinese alligators prefer to stay away from people.
- 34) Chinese alligators are larger in size than American alligators.
- 35) Chinese alligators have a soft underbelly.
- 36) The underbelly of the Chinese alligator is grey or black.
- 37) There are only a few hundred Chinese alligators left in the wild.
- 38) Chinese alligators can only live in saltwater environments.
- 39) Chinese alligators are mainly found in the Amazon rainforest.
- 40) After the Chinese alligator babies are born they quickly leave the mother.
- 41) Chinese alligators eat fish, snails, and small mammals.
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 43) Chinese alligators have a lifespan of around 50 years.
- 44) How long can Chinese alligators submerge underwater?
- 45) Chinese alligators mainly eat fish, turtles, and small mammals.
- 46) Chinese alligators are an endangered species.
- 47) Do Chinese alligators hibernate during winter?
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| 1. <u> D </u> | 26. <u> opinion </u> |
| 2. <u> D </u> | 27. <u> fact </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> opinion </u> |
| 4. <u> B </u> | 29. <u> fact </u> |
| 5. <u> C </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> |
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| 9. <u> B </u> | 34. <u> false </u> |
| 10. <u> B </u> | 35. <u> true </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> false </u> |
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| 18. <u> false </u> | 43. <u> declarative </u> |
| 19. <u> false </u> | 44. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 20. <u> true </u> | 45. <u> declarative </u> |
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