

Saltwater Crocodile



by Tom Jackson

[Intentionally Left Blank]



Saltwater Crocodile

by Tom Jackson

Consultants:

John E. McCosker, PhD

Chair of Aquatic Biology, California Academy of Sciences

Maureen Flannery, MS

Ornithology and Mammalogy Collection Manager, California Academy of Sciences

Wallace J. Nichols, PhD

Research Associate, California Academy of Sciences

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover, © Audrey Snider-Bell/Shutterstock; 3, © iStockphoto/Thinkstock; 4–5, © Sam Tinson/Rex Features; 6–7, © Cyril Ruoso/JH Editorial/Corbis; 9, © Per-Andre Hoffman/LOOK/Photoshot; 10, © Prisma Bildagentur AG/Alamy; 11, © Nadly Aizat/Shutterstock; IITC, © Shutterstock; IICL, © Kozier/Shutterstock; IIB, © Kyle Jeffery/Shutterstock; IIBR, © Shutterstock; IIR © Mickey Gibson/Animals Animals; I2, © Reg Morrison/Ardea.com; I3, © Jean Paul Ferrero/Ardea.com; I4, © Mogens Trolle/Shutterstock; I5, © NHPA/Photoshot; I6, © NHPA/Photoshot; I7, © Ben Cropp/Ardea.com; I8, © Mike Parry/Minden Pictures/Corbis; I9, © Adam Britton; 20, © Mike Parry/Minden Pictures/FLPA; 21, © Linda Welssenberger/Alamy; 22BL, © Andrew Burgess/Shutterstock; 22 “Coverings” column (top to bottom), © NHPA/Photoshot, © Arne Wolde/Shutterstock, © Natalie Davidovich/Shutterstock, © Shutterstock; 22 “Animals” column (top to bottom), © T. Spider/Shutterstock, © Dreamstime, © Dr. D. J. Beler/Shutterstock, © Arne Wolde/Shutterstock; 23TL, © Jerry Sanchez/Shutterstock; 23TC, © Per-Andre Hoffman/Photoshot; 23TR, © Nadly Aizat/Shutterstock; 23BL, © Alta Ossthuizen/Shutterstock; 23BC, © Jean Paul Ferrero/Ardea.com; 23BR, © Rienhold Leitner/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Brown Bear Books Ltd

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Jackson, Tom, 1972–

Saltwater crocodile / by Tom Jackson.

p. cm. — (The deep end: animal life underwater)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-I3: 978-1-61772-923-2 (library binding)

ISBN-I0: 1-61772-923-X (library binding)

I. *Crocodylus porosus*—Juvenile literature. 2. Crocodiles—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL666.C925J334 2014

597.98'2—dc23

2013011638

Copyright © 2014 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

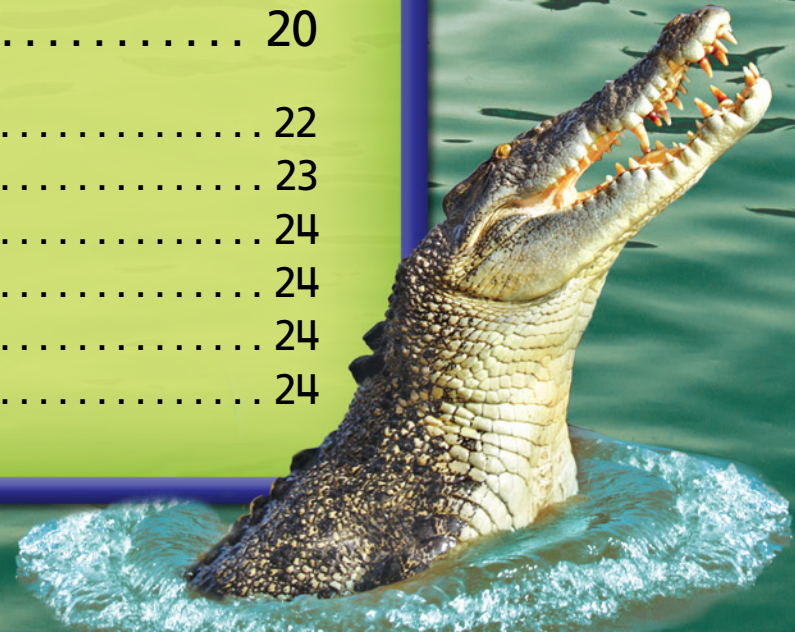
For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Contents

Secret Swimmer	4
Ruling Reptile	6
Watery Homes	8
Hunting for Food	10
Grabbing a Meal	12
Danger! Crocs!	14
Making a Nest	16
Baby Crocodiles	18
Surviving Danger	20
Science Lab	22
Science Words	23
Index	24
Read More	24
Learn More Online	24
About the Author	24





Secret Swimmer

A wide river flows slowly through a steamy jungle.

Everything seems peaceful—until ripples begin to move out across the water.

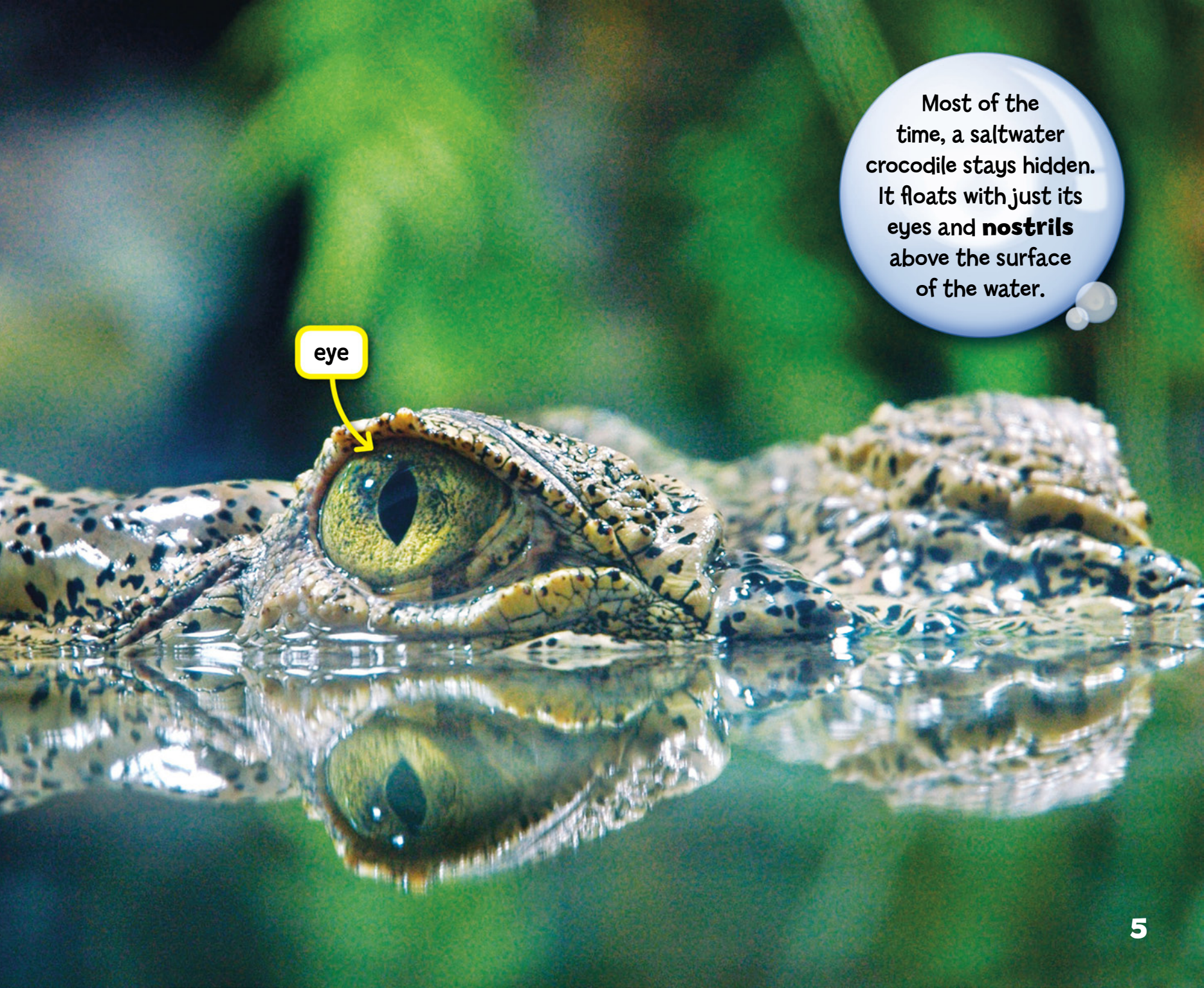
Soon, two eyes start to rise from below the surface.

Then, a large head appears.

It belongs to a huge saltwater crocodile on the lookout for lunch!



nostril

A close-up photograph of a saltwater crocodile's head floating in water. The crocodile's head is partially submerged, with its eyes and nostrils visible above the water's surface. The crocodile's skin is covered in a pattern of dark spots and blotches. The water is calm, creating a clear reflection of the crocodile's head. The background is a blurred green, suggesting a natural habitat.

Most of the time, a saltwater crocodile stays hidden. It floats with just its eyes and **nostrils** above the surface of the water.

eye



Ruling Reptile

The saltwater crocodile is the largest kind of crocodile in the world.

It's also the largest **reptile** in the world.

It's bigger than any snake, turtle, or lizard.

The biggest saltwater crocodiles are 23 feet (7 m) long.

That's more than half the length of a school bus.

There are 23 species, or kinds, of **crocodilians** in the world. This group includes crocodiles and closely related animals such as alligators.



Index

attacks on people 14
baby crocodiles 18–19
eggs 16, 18
eyes 4–5, 10

food 10–11, 12–13
hunting 4, 10, 12–13
life span 21
mother crocodiles 16–17, 18–19

nest 16–17, 18
nostrils 4–5, 10
size 6
teeth 13

Read More

Kaufman, Gabriel. *Saltwater Crocodile: The World's Biggest Reptile (SuperSized!).* New York: Bearport (2007).

Marsico, Katie. *Saltwater Crocodiles (Nature's Children).* New York: Children's Press (2013).

Sexton, Colleen A. *The Saltwater Crocodile (Nature's Deadliest).* Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media (2012).

Learn More Online

To learn more about saltwater crocodiles, visit www.bearportpublishing.com/TheDeepEnd

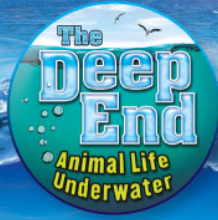
Answers for Page 22

- Scutes cover crocodiles • Scales cover fish
- Feathers cover swans • Fur covers sea otters

About the Author

Tom Jackson learned about animals in college and has worked in zoos, African safari parks, and rain forests. He now writes books about natural history and science in his attic in England.

[Intentionally Left Blank]



Saltwater Crocodile

Deep in a jungle, two eyes start to rise above a river's surface. Seconds later, a huge head appears. It belongs to a saltwater crocodile on the lookout for lunch. Without warning, it charges out of the river and uses its powerful jaws to grab its meal. Look inside to discover more about the world's largest crocodile and its watery world.

California Sea Lion

Moray Eel

Great White Shark

Saltwater Crocodile

Green Sea Turtle

Sea Otter

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

