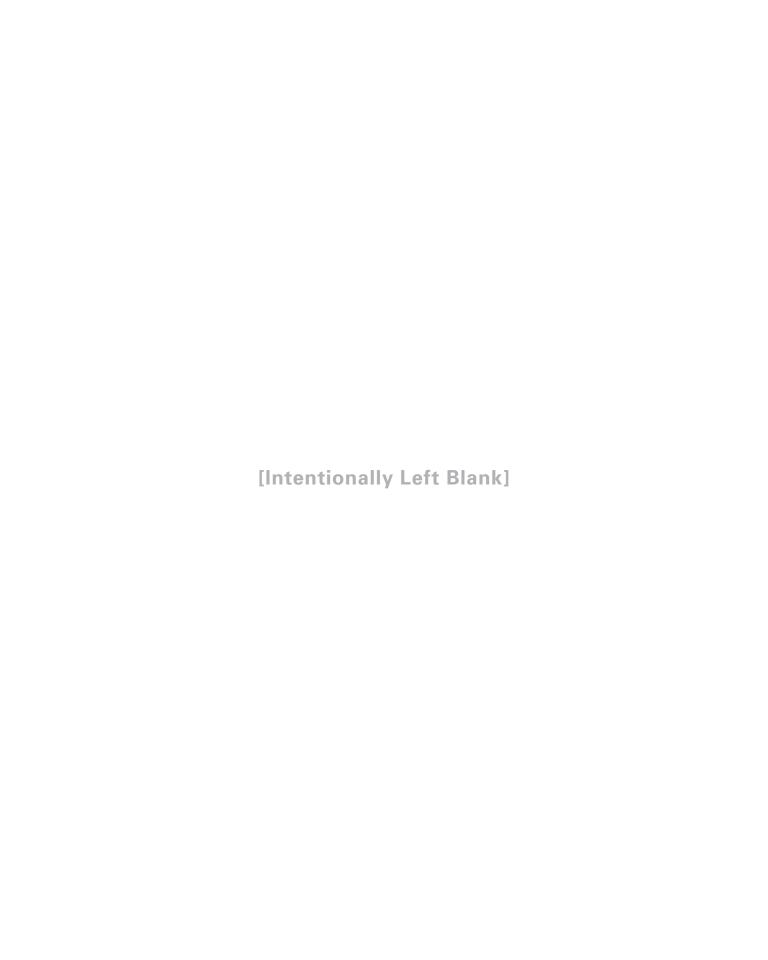


Freshwater Survivors

by Aaron Feigenbaum





American Alligators Freshwater Survivors



by Aaron Feigenbaum

Consultant: Laura A. Brandt, Ph.D.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Team Leader, Joint Ecosystem Modeling Lab
Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center



New York. New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © David Hosking/Alamy; 4, © Thomas McCarver; 5, © William Munoz; 6, © Lynn M. Stone/naturepl.com; 7, © W. Perry Conway/Corbis; 8, © Robert Pickett/Papilio/Alamy; 9, © Martin Woike/FOTO NATURA/Minden Pictures; 10, © Adam White/naturepl.com; 11, © P. Henry/Arcolmages/Peter Arnold, Inc.; 12L, © Lawrence Manning/Corbis; 12R, © W. Perry Conway/Corbis; 13, © The Granger Collection, New York; 14, © Peter Horree/Alamy; 15, © Kevin Fleming/Corbis; 16, © Raymond Gehman/Corbis; 18, © P. Henry/Arcolmages/Peter Arnold, Inc.; 19, © Thomas McCarver; 20, © Thomas McCarver; 21, © Philip Gould/Corbis; 22, © William Munoz; 23, © AP Images/The Post & Courier, Wade Spees; 24, © William Munoz; 25, © C.C. Lockwood/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 26, © AP Images/J. Pat Carter; 27, © Stan Osolinski/OSF/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 28, © William Munoz; 29T, © Dr. Myrna Watanabe/Peter Arnold, Inc.; 29B, © W. Perry Conway/Corbis; 31, © magmarcz/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman Creative Director: Spencer Brinker Photo Researcher: Amy Dunleavy Cover Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Feigenbaum, Aaron.

American alligators : freshwater survivors / by Aaron Feigenbaum.

p. cm. — (America's animal comebacks) Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-503-7 (library binding) ISBN-10: 1-59716-503-4 (library binding)

1. American alligator-Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL666.C925F45 2008 597.98'4-dc22

2007013160

Copyright © 2008 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a 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., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

10987654321

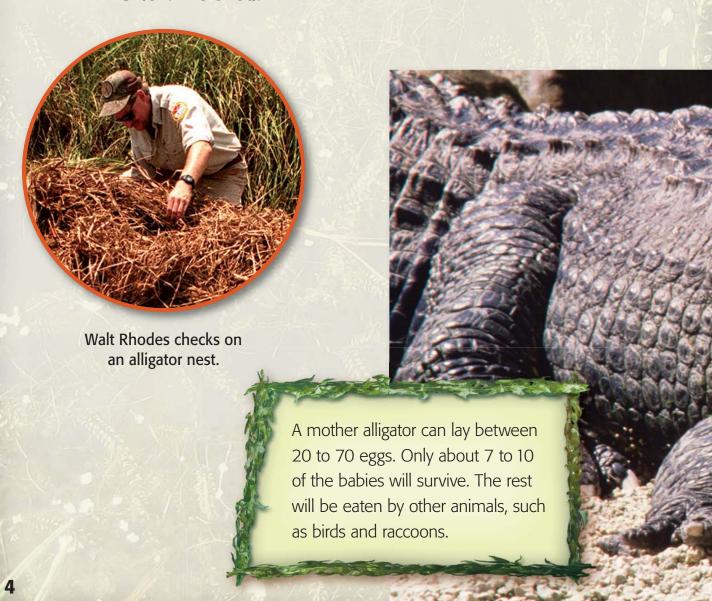


Visiting the Nests
Long Ago 6
Tall Tales8
A Big Misunderstanding10
Hunting Season12
Desperate Measures
Back from the Brink
Studying Alligators18
The Eggs
Backyard Babies22
Return to Nature24
The Future
Alligator Facts
Other Alligators in Danger
Glossary
Bibliography 31
Read More
Learn More Online
Index
About the Author

Visiting the Nests

It was a hot, sticky day in July 2000. **Biologist** Walt Rhodes sloshed through the muddy waters of the Santee Coastal **Reserve** in South Carolina. He was looking for alligator nests filled with eggs. When he found a nest, he stuck his hands into it.

"Ouch!" he cried.



Fire ants stung his arms. Walt ignored the pain. He needed to quickly take the temperature of the nest to find out when the eggs would hatch. Then he would check on some of the other nests.

Soon Walt returned to his boat. The stings hurt, but at least he hadn't run into a mother alligator. She would not have been happy to find him touching her eggs.

Not long ago, Walt would have had few eggs to study. In the mid-1900s, American alligators were on the brink of **extinction**.



Long Ago

American alligators have lived on Earth for more than 200 million years. Very few kinds of living creatures have been on Earth that long. Alligators ruled the swamps before dinosaurs roamed the land!



Millions of alligators once lived in what is today the southeastern United States. The warm weather is good for them because they are **cold-blooded**. Alligators need warm weather to help keep their body temperature up. The **region** also provides the perfect **environment** for them. Alligators live both on land and in water. The Southeast is filled with lakes, rivers, ponds, and **wetlands**.



Index

attacks 10-11

black caimans 28

Chinese alligators 28

cold-blooded 7

dinosaurs 6

eggs 4-5, 19, 20-21, 22

endangered 16-17

Endangered Species Act 28

explorers 9

fire ants 5, 19

Florida 13, 14–15, 16

food 9, 28

France 12

habitat loss 14-15, 29

hatchlings 22-23, 25

hunting 8, 12–13, 14–15, 16–17, 18, 26, 28–29

incubate 20

laws 16-17

Louisiana 15, 16

Native Americans 8

nests 4-5, 11, 19, 24-25

poachers 16-17

pollution 14, 23

Rhodes, Walt 4–5, 19, 20–21, 22–23, 24–25, 27

24 25, 21

Santee Coastal Reserve 4, 19, 20, 23,

24

skins 12–13, 16–17

South Carolina 4

Southeast 7, 8, 14, 26-27

teeth 8

traders 16-17

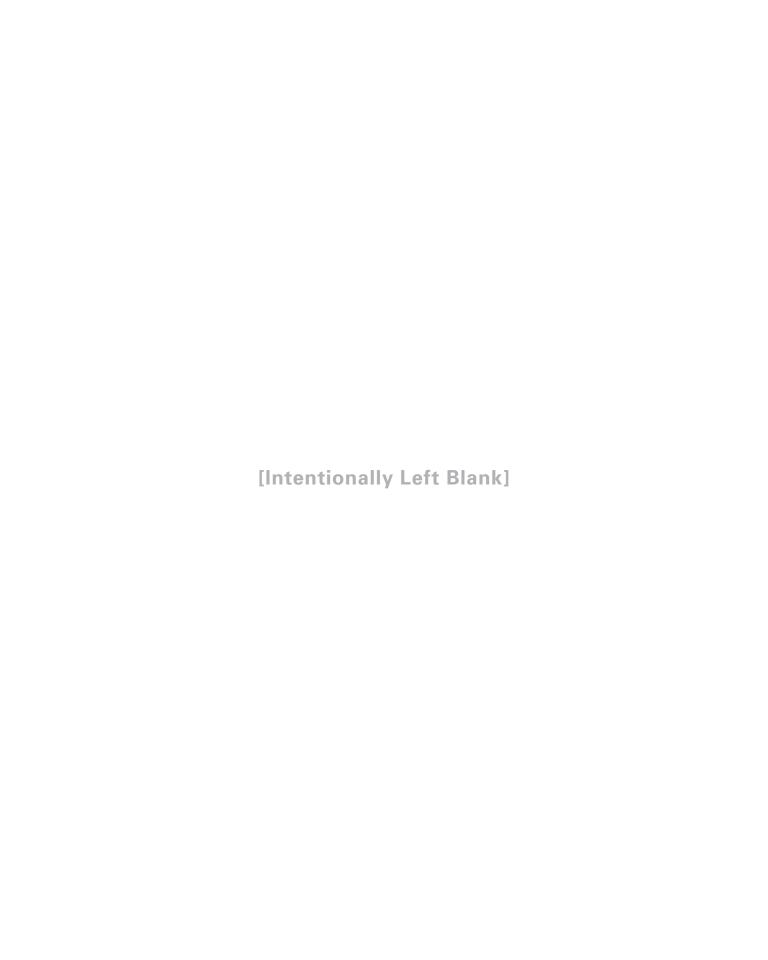
United States government 16-17, 18,

26, 28

wetlands 7, 14

About the Author

Aaron Feigenbaum is an anthropologist, editor, and children's book author. He currently resides in New York City.





American Alligators Freshwater Survivors

It was a hot, sticky day in July 2000. Biologist Walt Rhodes sloshed through the muddy waters of the Santee Coastal Reserve in South Carolina. He was looking for alligator nests filled with eggs. Not long ago, Walt would have had few eggs to study. In the mid-1900s, American alligators had been on the brink of extinction. Look inside to learn how people found a way to help the American alligator survive.

American AlligatorsFreshwater Survivors

American BisonA Scary Prediction

Bald EaglesA Chemical Nightmare

Black-footed Ferrets
Back from the Brink

Florida Manatees Warm Water Miracles

Florida Panthers
Struggle for Survival

Gray Wolves Return to Yellowstone

Grizzly BearsSaving the Silvertip

Southern Sea Otters Fur-tastrophe Avoided

BEARPORT

www.bearportpublishing.com

