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The Crocodile Question

Why do crocodiles sunbake?

In this episode, we discover that crocodiles sit in the sun to warm their bodies because they are reptiles... and reptiles are cold-blooded.

Wonder some more ...

1. Do all reptiles have backbones?
2. Why do crocodiles have sharp teeth and powerful jaws?
3. Why do crocodiles hunt at night?
4. What type of skin covering does a crocodile have?
5. Where do baby crocodiles hatch from?
6. What other animals are in the reptile family?



Time to explore...

- **CREATE:** Look at photographs of crocodiles in books/magazines and encourage children to identify the repeated pattern of a crocodile's scaly skin and thick bony back plates. Provide open-ended collage experiences using paper and other materials with repeated patterns (spots, zigzags, spirals, tessellations) to support children's early mathematical understandings.
- **CONSTRUCT:** Use picture books to help explain the life cycle of a crocodile to young children. Together, create a mini 'crocodile habitat' sensory play area using - natural materials, adult & baby sized crocodile figurines and wooden eggs. Encourage children to represent the sequence of a crocodile's life cycle through this small world imaginative play.



Read and wonder...

- *'Really Remarkable Reptiles'* (2018) by Jake Williams
- *'No Way Yirrikipayi!'* (2020) by Alison Lester
- *'Shoo You Crocodile'* (2020) by Katrina Germein and Tom Jellett



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Early Education

Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes including 4.2, 4.3, 5.3 and 5.4.