



AMERICAN ALLIGATOR



QUICK FACTS

Scientific Name: Alligator mississippiensis

Population: ~1.3 million (estimated in Florida)

Lifespan: 30-50 years (wild), up to 70 years (captivity)

Size: 3-4.6 m long (10-15 ft), up to 5.8 m

Weight: 220-450 kg (485-992 lb)

Speed: Up to 32 km/h (20 mph) on land



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Color:** Dark gray to black
- **Sensory Adaptations:** Pressure sensors, keen smell
- **Limb & Tail Functionality:** Powerful tail, webbed feet

FUN FACT !

Can gallop

IUCN Red list category
Least Concern

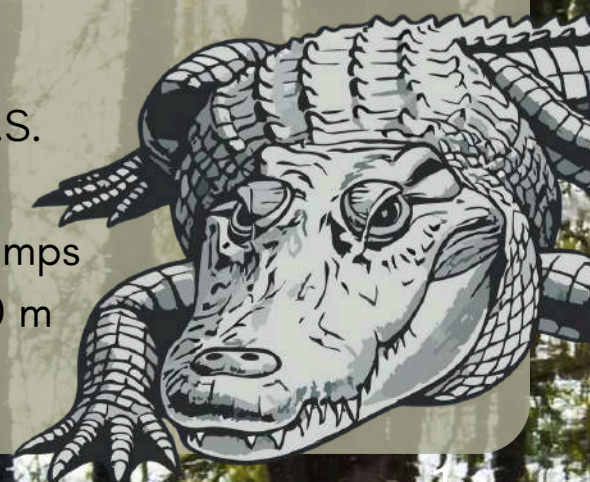
HABITAT & DISTRIBUTION



Range: Southeastern U.S.

Preferred Habitat:
Freshwater wetlands, swamps

Elevation Range: 0-100 m
(0-328 ft)





DIET & NUTRITION

Primary Diet: Fish, birds, mammals
Foraging Method: Ambush predator
Adaptations: Strong bite, death roll



UNIQUE ADAPTATIONS

Death Roll: Subdues prey
Temperature Sex Determination: Eggs determine sex

Survival Score:
Strength: 9/10
Stealth: 8/10
Adaptability: 7/10



REPRODUCTION & LIFE CYCLE

Mating Season: April-June
Gestation: 65 days (incubation)
Clutch Size: 20-50 eggs
Parental Care: Mother guards nest and young



ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Role: Creates alligator holes for water
Indicator Species: Signals wetland health
Cultural Significance: Florida icon

THREATS

Habitat loss, vehicle strikes



CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Protected, monitoring



Call to Action: Protect wetlands, drive carefully, spread awareness

INTERESTING FACTS

Bite force 9,452 N

Can live in brackish water

Eyes glow red at night

