



Protecting Southwest Florida's unique natural environment and quality of life ... now and forever.

# Wildlife Adventure Series- Awesome Alligators Pre and Post-Program Activities

Grade Level: Pre-K and Kindergarten

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## Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

- Life Science; Environmental Awareness
- SC.K.L.14.1; SC.K.L.14.3; SC.K.N.1.2

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## Program Overview

Join us on a wild adventure! Discover amazing animals and explore nature through multi-sensory, interactive activities, stories, games and more.

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## Learning Objectives Students will be able to:

1. Recognize and explore the senses used by animals to survive in the Everglades.
2. Identify characteristics of animals that live in alligator holes and describe how they are alike and different.
3. Recognize that changes in the natural world can impact animals and plants.

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Conservancy of Southwest Florida has been awarded Charity Navigator's prestigious 4-Star top rating for good governance, sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Charity Navigator is America's largest and most respected independent evaluator of charities.

## **Pre-Program Activity: What is an Alligator?**

**Duration of Activity:** 30 minutes

### **Materials:**

- Access to a computer and the ability to project onto a screen.
- Coloring page provided

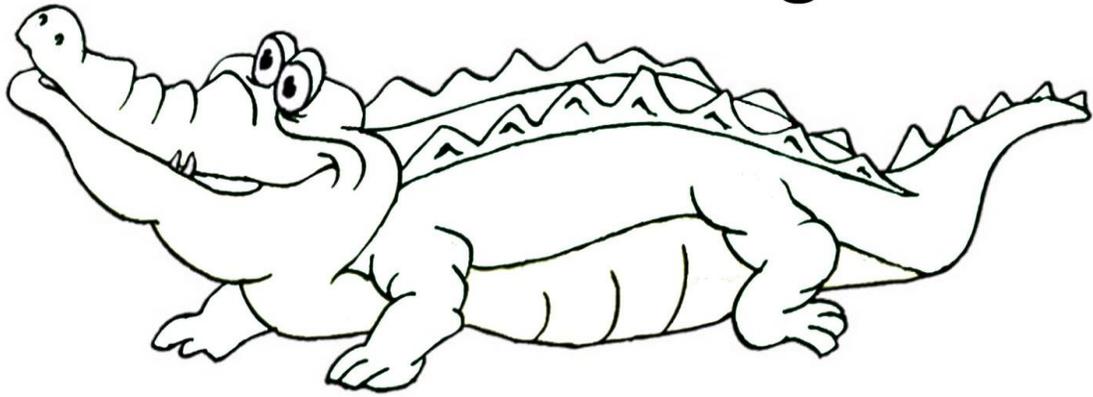
**Background:** Alligators are a large member of the reptile family, and have been living on earth for millions of years. Like all reptiles, they have scales, are cold-blooded (meaning their body temperature changes with the environment), and lay eggs. Alligators are found in the southeastern parts of North America and in China, and live in rivers, ponds, and the Everglades. They are well built for life in water with webbed feet, and strong tails used for swimming. Alligators are well known for their powerful jaws which they use to hunt prey such as fish, birds, turtles, and even deer!

### **Directions:**

1. Show the students the YouTube video (2:18) about alligators:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gC438crLVY>
2. When the video is over, have children color their own alligator. At the same time, discuss as a class ways that alligators are like other animals, and ways they are different (alligators have dry/scaly skin, no hair, lay eggs, breathe air, have four legs, live in water, have 80 teeth, eat meat, etc.)

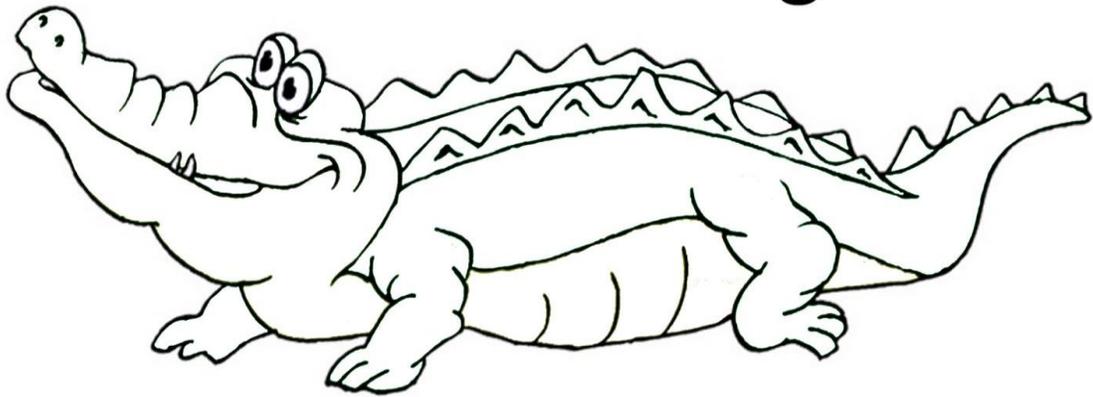
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## **Post-Program Activity: Gator Hole Poster**

**Duration of Activity:** 30 minutes

**Materials:** poster size sheet of paper, animal cutouts (below), crayons or colored pencils, tacky tape or other adhesive

### **Directions:**

1. On the poster, draw a gator hole (have students recall the gator hole activity that they did with the Conservancy).
2. Distribute animal cutouts to children (there will be multiples of each animal). Have them color the animals.
3. One at a time, have students come up and place where the animal could be found in the gator hole. Talk about the interactions that animals have with one another in the gator hole.



**Image Source:** Who Lives in an Alligator Hole? By Anne Rockwell, Illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell

