



Dive into the world of Cuban crocodiles, a fascinating species of crocodile with a vibrant personality and stunning features! These scale-covered creatures, painted in a beautiful mosaic of black, yellow, and gray, are much smaller than your typical crocodile, usually growing only to about 7.5 feet long. But don't let their size fool you, these little guys have long, strong legs and a boxy snout which make them quite unique among crocodiles. Their eyes are set high on their heads, which allows them to keep a close watch on their surroundings, even while they're in the water.



Staying on the lookout is especially important in their home, the wild and wonderful wetlands of Cuba, known as the Zapata Swamp and the Isle of Youth. This is where they spend their time, swimming in the freshwater or basking on the muddy banks. As for what they eat, Cuban crocodiles are not picky eaters – they love to munch on fish, turtles, and small mammals that come to the water's edge. And when it comes to mealtime, they're pretty crafty, often working together in groups to hunt their prey.

Now, you may be wondering how these Cuban crocodiles come into the world. Well, after a female lays her eggs in a nest she makes in the ground, she waits patiently for about 80 days before the baby crocodiles (known as hatchlings) break free from their shells. These adorable little ones stay close to their mom for protection, learning the ropes of crocodile life before setting off on their own. As they grow older, their relationship with other animals can be a bit tricky, because although they are pretty social with their own kind, they can be aggressive towards other species.



Speaking of other species, you might be curious about how Cuban crocodiles are different from other crocodiles. Aside from their distinctive look and smaller size, they are also known for their exceptional leaping ability, often jumping out of the water to catch their food. And when it comes to humans, they can be a bit shy, but unfortunately, their numbers have been declining due to habitat loss and hunting. In conclusion, Cuban crocodiles are truly unique creatures, full of life and character, and deserving of our respect and protection.



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) How big do Cuban crocodiles usually grow?
  - A. about 7.5 feet long
  - B. about 5 feet long
  - C. about 15 feet long
  - D. about 10 feet long
- 2) Where are the eyes of Cuban crocodiles set on their heads?
  - A. low
  - B. On the bottom
  - C. high
  - D. in the middle
- 3) What feature of their body helps Cuban crocodiles to watch their surroundings even in the water?
  - A. Their boxy snout
  - B. Their scale-covered skin
  - C. Their eyes set high on their heads
  - D. Their long and strong legs
- 4) What behavior do Cuban crocodiles display towards other species?
  - A. Can be aggressive
  - B. Try to play with
  - C. Are extremely scared of
  - D. Are very friendly
- 5) What color are Cuban crocodiles usually?
  - A. green and brown
  - B. orange and red
  - C. blue and purple
  - D. black, yellow, and gray
- 6) Why are Cuban crocodiles' numbers declining?
  - A. Due to lack of food
  - B. Due to disease
  - C. Due to habitat loss and hunting
  - D. Due to temperature changes
- 7) What are baby Cuban crocodiles called?
  - A. Scalie babies
  - B. Tiny gators
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- 8) What are the names of the wetlands in Cuba where Cuban crocodiles live?
  - A. the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes
  - B. the Zapata Swamp and the Isle of Youth
  - C. the Amazon Rainforest and the Sahara Desert
  - D. the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea
- 9) How long do Cuban crocodile eggs take to hatch?
  - A. about 365 days
  - B. about 80 days
  - C. about 120 days
  - D. about 40 days
- 10) What do Cuban crocodiles eat?
  - A. insects and spiders
  - B. fish, turtles, and small mammals
  - C. berries and fruit
  - D. grass and leaves
- 11) How do Cuban crocodiles behave with their own kind?
  - A. They are territorial
  - B. They are pretty social
  - C. They are aggressive
  - D. They are indifferent



**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or if it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 12) "I come out of my shell after 80 days inside."
- 13) "My eyes are high up on my head so I can see easily!"
- 14) "I eat all sorts of stuff like fish, small mammals, and even turtles sometimes! Yum!"
- 15) "I'm a very choosy eater, so I only eat some specific fish species."
- 16) "My home is in the wild wetlands of Cuba. I swim in the freshwater and chill in the sun!"
- 17) "We immediately leave the nest after hatching. No staying close to mom for us!"
- 18) "I'm smaller than most crocodiles, only about 7 feet long but I'm still very powerful!"
- 19) "My eyes are positioned quite low on my head, so I don't see much when I'm in the water."
- 20) "I prefer hanging around the salty seawater."
- 21) "I always prefer hunting alone, it's more peaceful that way."

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 22) Cuban crocodiles are known to leap out of the water to catch their food.
- 23) It's impressive how Cuban crocodiles are able to hunt in groups, unlike other crocodile species.
- 24) The diet of Cuban crocodiles includes fish, turtles, and small mammals.
- 25) It's amazing that Cuban crocodiles have such a long life span, up to 75 years!
- 26) Cuban crocodiles inhabit the wetlands of Cuba.
- 27) The fact that Cuban crocodiles are smaller than other crocodile species makes them less scary.
- 28) The numbers of Cuban crocodiles have been declining due to hunting and habitat loss.
- 29) Cuban crocodiles are smaller in size when compared to other crocodiles.
- 30) The way Cuban crocodiles snatch their food by leaping out of the water is amazing.
- 31) The colors of Cuban crocodiles, black, yellow, and gray, make them more beautiful than any other crocodile.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 32) Cuban crocodiles can leap out of the water to catch their food.
- 33) Cuban crocodiles live mostly in the rainforests in Brazil.
- 34) Cuban crocodiles are aggressive toward other crocodile species.
- 35) Cuban crocodiles are typically 15 feet long.
- 36) Cuban crocodiles have eyes set high on their heads.
- 37) Cuban crocodiles are picky eaters, they only eat other crocodile species.
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 42) Cuban crocodiles can grow up to 10 feet in length.
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- 44) Cuban crocodiles have powerful jaws.
- 45) Cuban crocodiles are found only in Cuba.
- 46) Are Cuban crocodiles endangered?
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| 1. _____  | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ |
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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 26. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 2. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 27. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 3. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 28. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 4. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 29. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 5. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 30. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 6. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 31. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 7. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 32. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 8. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 33. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 9. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 34. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 10. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>       | 35. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 11. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>       | 36. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 12. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 37. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 13. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 38. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 14. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 39. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 15. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 40. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 16. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 41. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 17. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 42. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 18. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 43. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 19. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 44. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 20. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 45. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 21. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 46. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 22. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>    | 47. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 23. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u> |   |
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**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

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  - A. about 7.5 feet long
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
- 2) Where are the eyes of Cuban crocodiles set on their heads? (paragraph 1)
  - A. low
  - B.
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  - D.
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  - A. Their boxy snout
  - B. Their scale-covered skin
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  - A. Can be aggressive
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- 5) What color are Cuban crocodiles usually? (paragraph 1)
  - A.
  - B. orange and red
  - C.
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- 6) Why are Cuban crocodiles' numbers declining? (paragraph 4)
  - A.
  - B. Due to disease
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  - A. Scalie babies
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  - A. the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes
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  - A. about 365 days
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  - A. They are territorial
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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

12) "I come out of my shell after 80 days inside." (paragraph 3)