FOR THE STUDENT

Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies (CARS) is a reading program that gives you practice with 12 reading strategies. In ***CARS, Book 6,*** you will complete ten reading lessons. Each lesson consists of a reading passage and questions about the passage. Each passage is a different writing form. Some of the writing forms are a fable, a biography, a science article, and a letter. After you read each passage, you will answer 12 questions. Each question helps you practise a certain reading strategy.

Once you have completed the first five lessons, you will complete a self-assessment. The self-assessment will help you see how well you are doing and what goals you need to set. After you complete the last five lessons, you will complete another self-assessment. This self-assessment will help you see how well you met your goals.

CARS, Book 6 will help you become a more effective reader. You will understand what important information to look for as you read. This will help you get the most from your reading.

Permissions and Acknowledgments

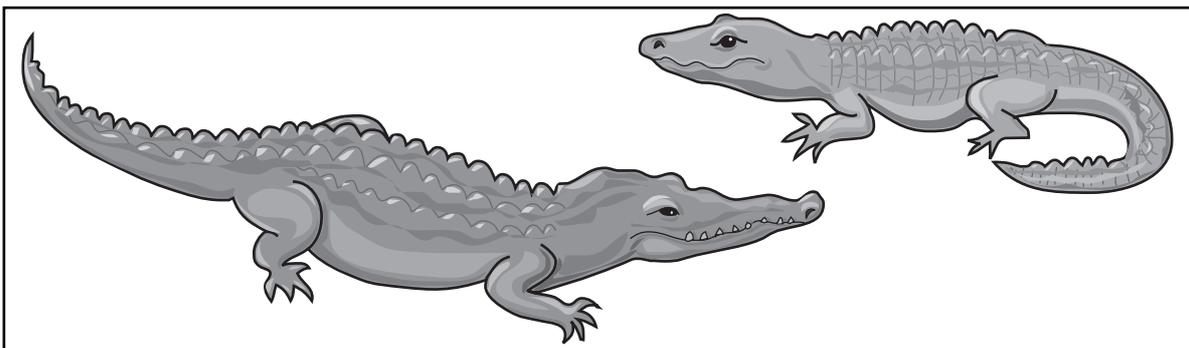**Here is a science article about two kinds of reptiles. Read the article. Then do Questions 1 to 12.**

Crocodiles and Alligators—What's the Difference?

Have you ever seen a crocodile or an alligator? If you have, then you know how difficult it can be to tell them apart. Because they are both members of the same family, there are many ways in which these cold-blooded reptiles are alike. For example, both crocodiles and alligators love to be warm. In fact, they bask in the warmth of the sun for hours each day. Like other reptiles, the body temperature of crocodiles and alligators is always the same as that of their surroundings. To survive, they must live in areas that provide the heat they require. Crocodiles can be found in the swamps and rivers of warm regions in Australia. They also live in parts of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Alligators are commonly found along warm coastal areas in the United States and in parts of China.

Finding differences between a crocodile and an alligator can be difficult. The first thing you can do to try to tell them apart is to look at the jaws of each reptile. If the lower teeth stick out when the jaw is closed, then the animal is a crocodile. If you cannot see the teeth when the jaw is closed, then the animal is an alligator.

Another way to distinguish between a crocodile and an alligator is by their size. Crocodiles can be as much as 7 metres long, but most alligators are about 4 metres long or smaller. Just because an alligator's body is smaller than a crocodile's, however, does not mean that every part of it is too. In fact, the alligator's snout is large and rounded like a worn crayon tip. The crocodile's snout is thin and pointed like a sharp pencil.

One final way to tell these two reptiles apart is by their skin. Crocodiles have hard, tough skin. An alligator's skin is just as hard but somewhat smoother. You now should have enough information to tell the difference between a crocodile and an alligator. If you should ever have the opportunity to test your knowledge, however, be careful! Crocodiles and alligators can be swift and dangerous so always keep a safe distance.

Finding Main Idea

1. The article mainly describes

   Ⓐ the habitat of crocodiles and alligators.
   Ⓑ similarities and differences between crocodiles and alligators.
   Ⓒ the many differences between crocodiles and other reptiles.
   Ⓓ the many reptiles related to crocodiles and alligators.

Recognising Cause and Effect

4. Why is a reptile's body temperature always the same as that of its surroundings?

   Ⓐ because reptiles bask in the sun for hours
   Ⓑ because reptiles prefer warm climates
   Ⓒ because reptiles are warm-blooded
   Ⓓ because reptiles are cold-blooded

Recalling Facts and Details

2. Where are alligators commonly found?

   Ⓐ along the coast in warm areas of the United States and in China
   Ⓑ in the swamps and rivers of China and the Americas
   Ⓒ throughout coastal areas of America and Australia
   Ⓓ on all continents wherever there is water

Comparing and Contrasting

5. Which of these tells how the jaws of an alligator are different from the jaws of a crocodile?

   Ⓐ The alligator does not have a jaw, but the crocodile does.
   Ⓑ The alligator has a round jaw, but the crocodile has a pointed jaw.
   Ⓒ The alligator doesn't show teeth when its jaw is closed, but the crocodile does.
   Ⓓ The alligator has a small jaw, but the crocodile has a large jaw.

Understanding Sequence

3. What can you do first to tell the difference between a crocodile and an alligator?

   Ⓐ determine each reptile's body temperature
   Ⓑ compare the jaws of each reptile
   Ⓒ estimate the length of each reptile
   Ⓓ examine the skin of each reptile

Making Predictions

6. Predict what would happen if there was a dramatic decrease in temperature in an alligator's habitat.

   Ⓐ The alligator would dwell on only the water instead of on both land and water.
   Ⓑ The alligator would maintain a lower body temperature.
   Ⓒ The alligator would not be able to tolerate the change and would die.
   Ⓓ The alligator would adapt to the cooler temperature.

SELF-ASSESSMENT 1

Student's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Complete this page after you have completed Lessons 1–5.

1. You have completed Lessons 1–5. Explain how well you think you did.

   _____

   _____

2. Did any part of the reading passages or questions give you trouble? _____
   If so, what kind of trouble did you have?

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. Complete this sentence: I could have done an even better job on Lessons 1–5 if

   _____

   _____

   _____

4. What is your goal for completing Lessons 6–10?

   _____

   _____

5. How would you rate your work in Lessons 1–5? Circle your answer.

   successful   somewhat successful   needs improvement

TEACHER ASSESSMENT 1

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Assessing the Strategies

Students answer a question about each strategy once in each lesson, or a total of ten times. Use the student's completed Answer Form to fill in the chart below. First, record the total number of correct responses for each strategy. Then record the percent of correct responses for each strategy.

Strategy		Number of Correct Responses	Percent Correct
Finding Main Idea	(MI)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Recalling Facts and Details	(FD)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Understanding Sequence	(US)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Recognising Cause and Effect	(CE)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Comparing and Contrasting	(CC)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Making Predictions	(MP)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Finding Word Meaning in Context	(WM)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences	(CI)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion	(FO)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Identifying Author's Purpose	(AP)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Interpreting Figurative Language	(FL)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %
Summarising	(SM)	_____ out of 10	= _____ %

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