

## **RE-VIEW**

### **Video: Reptile Reunion**

*Compare-Contrast Nonfiction Text Structure  
(part-part compare-contrast)*

Paige and Sam are continuing their visit to a reptile exhibit. Sam is interested in learning how to tell crocodiles and alligators apart. She can't wait hold a live alligator! Sam finds helpful information in her exhibit brochure. She also notices it's an excellent example of Part-Part Compare-Contrast Text Structure. Sam can't wait to share her findings with Paige!

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read ***Crocodile or Alligator?*** and create your own *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer.

Then compare your thinking with **Sam's Think Aloud and Graphic Organizer.**



#### Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about crocodiles and alligators. Think about what you've learned about comparing and contrasting information. Remember that Compare-Contrast Nonfiction Text Structure is what authors use to show how two things are alike or different.

#### While You Read:

Notice signal words that can help you determine similarities and differences. You may want to highlight signal words in blue. Highlight the topics being compared in orange, contrasting information in green, and the similar features in brown. (You may use any colors available to you – just remember your color scheme!)

#### After You Read:

- Think about these questions, “What do crocodiles and alligators have in common?” “How can you tell them apart?”
- Think about the video you just watched. Sam shared how she made sense of the passage *Crocodile or Alligator?* Create your own *Think Aloud*. Share how you made sense of this passage, too.

#### Crocodile or Alligator?

At first glance, it can be a challenge to tell crocodiles and alligators apart. Although they do share some of the same characteristics, scientists have placed them in two separate subfamilies because of some important differences.



Crocodiles have a narrow, tapered snout, shaped like a “v”. In comparison, alligators have a broad, rounded snout, shaped like a “u”. The crocodile has an upper and lower jaw that is about the same width. When its mouth closes, the upper teeth interlocks with the lower teeth, exposing them. The alligator, on the other hand, has a wider upper jaw than its lower jaw. When its mouth closes, the teeth in the lower jaw are almost hidden.

If you studied these two giant reptiles closely, you would notice more differences. Though the skin of both alligators and crocodiles is thick and bumpy, the skin color is different. Crocodiles are grayish green, whereas alligators are black.



**Create a Graphic Organizer:**

After you have determined the similarities and differences between crocodiles and alligators, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking and to help you remember the author's main points.





### Compare your Think Aloud with Sam's Think Aloud:

**Sam's Think Aloud:** I know the author used a part-part compare-contrast text structure because the title is a question and he went back and forth in the text, comparing and contrasting one body part to another. By using this text structure to point out similarities and differences in crocs and gators, it helps me to better understand how they are alike and different. I can easily create a part-part compare-contrast graphic organizer to record my thinking.

I start comparing and contrasting the two reptiles when I read the question in the title and the first sentence. In the second sentence, I know the signal word "same" is a word that authors use to compare things that are similar, but I also see the words "separate" and "differences." These are words that authors use to contrast two things.

To help me remember the information to share with Paige and show how they are alike and different, I'm going to label the names of the reptiles, Crocodiles and Alligators, on each side of my graphic organizer. I will record the parts that are the same in the middle of my graphic organizer to represent features that are shared by both. Then I will contrast the differences by placing them across from the shared feature, to either the left or right.

In the second paragraph, I notice the signal words "in comparison." I'm thinking how the shapes of the snouts are different because one is shaped like a "v" and the other, a "u." Since both animals have snouts, I record that between the topics as a similarity, but I put the actual shapes of the snouts on each side to show how their snout shapes are different. Next, I notice the author tells about their jaws and teeth. As I read the signal word "same," I know that the width of the crocodile's upper and lower jaw is similar. As I read on, I see the phrase "on the other hand." I'm thinking about how we use this phrase to convey how something is different. I know these words signal that the alligator has a different jaw structure. Sure enough! The -er on wider lets me know that the upper jaw is different from the lower one. If I see a row of teeth on the lower jaw, I know it's a crocodile!

But there's more! In fact the word "more" in the next paragraph helps me to think about more ways they are different. I know that the author is going to compare and contrast more features. The word "both" helps me understand that both have skin that is thick and bumpy, but I know the word "whereas" signals a difference. The crocodile's skin is grayish green; the alligator's skin is black.

### Crocodile or Alligator?

At first glance, it can be a challenge to tell **crocodiles** and **alligators** apart. Although they do share some of the **same** characteristics, scientists have placed them in two **separate** subfamilies because of some important **differences**.



Crocodiles have a **narrow, tapered snout, shaped like a "v"**. **In comparison**, alligators have a **broad, rounded snout, shaped like a "u"**. **The crocodile has an upper and lower jaw that is about the same width**. When its mouth closes, the upper **teeth** interlocks with the **lower teeth, exposing them**. **The alligator, on the other hand, has a wider upper jaw than its lower jaw**. When its mouth closes, **the teeth in the lower jaw are almost hidden**.

If you studied these two giant reptiles closely, you would notice **more** differences. Though the **skin** of **both** alligators and crocodiles is **thick and bumpy**, the skin color is different. **Crocodiles are grayish green, whereas alligators are black**.



#### Compare your Graphic Organizer with Sam's Graphic Organizer:

**Sam's Graphic Organizer:** "Because the author is comparing and contrasting crocodiles and alligators using part-part compare contrast text structure, I create a part-part compare-contrast graphic organizer to record my ideas."

#### Questions to Think About:

- How do *signal words* help Sam make sense of the text?
- How does the *Part-Part Compare-Contrast Graphic Organizer* help Sam determine important ideas?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

