

RE-VIEW

Video: Reptile Relatives

*Compare-Contrast Nonfiction Text Structure
(whole-whole)*

Paige and Sam are visiting a reptile exhibit. Paige is interested in learning how to tell the difference between crocodiles and alligators. As she makes her way through the exhibit, she finds a kiosk with a lot of helpful information. Paige notices that it is a fantastic example of Whole-Whole Compare-Contrast Nonfiction Text Structure. She can't wait to share what she learns with Sam!

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read **American Crocodiles and American Alligators**. Create your own *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer.

Then compare your thinking with **Paige'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 first topic in orange, the second topic 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 this question, "How are crocodiles and alligators alike and different?"
- Think about the video you just watched. Paige shared how she made sense of the passages *American Crocodiles* and *American Alligators*. Create your own *Think Aloud*. Share how you made sense of this passage, too.

American Crocodiles

The American crocodile makes its home in the sunny warmth of southern Florida. Though it can be aggressive, the American crocodile is also vocal. It uses over 20 different growls, squeals, snorts, and hisses to communicate. Its pointed snout helps the crocodile hunt fish, which is a major part of the crocodile diet. Today, the American crocodile remains on the endangered species list.

American Alligators

Though once endangered the American alligator now thrives throughout the swamps and wetlands of the southeastern United States. The American alligator is considered by some to be less aggressive than the crocodile, but it's just as vocal. One call sounds like the roar of a lion. Its powerful, u-shaped snout enables the American alligator to crush the hard shells of turtles and snails.



Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the similarities and differences between American crocodiles and American 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 Paige's Think Aloud:

Paige's Think Aloud: Kiosks are always helpful! This text is similar to what I've seen in other exhibits. Compare-contrast text structure shows me how American Crocodiles and American Alligators are alike and different. As I read this information, I'm thinking that the author uses whole-whole compare-contrast text structure. I know this because two complete passages are being compared. First, he provides the whole passage about the American Crocodile, then the entire passage about the American Alligator.

There is quite a bit of info here. I'd better make a graphic organizer so I can remember what to tell Sam about how they are alike and different. I'm going to label the circles Crocodiles and Alligators. Then I record the common features in the middle where the circles intersect. Both are vocal. This seems to be the only way that I can see they are alike based on this information.

Then I will record what is different outside the intersection in the appropriate circle. Crocodiles live in southern Florida. I include this as a difference because it is a more specific part of the region where alligators are found, which is in the swamps and wetlands of the Southeastern United States. I read that the crocodile is aggressive. I'm going to put that as a difference because even though I read that the alligator is aggressive, the author describes it as less aggressive than the crocodile. I know they are both vocal. But as I read about the sounds they make, I see that they are different sounds. Crocodiles have 20 different growls, squeals, snorts, and hisses. Alligators can sound like a lion. As I read about both animals, I learned that their snout is important to help them eat, but I learned that their snouts are different shapes and they use them in different ways to eat, so I will list those under differences. Crocodiles hunt fish with their v-shaped pointed snout. Alligators use their u-shaped snout to crush the hard shells of turtles and snails. I learned that the crocodile is on the endangered species list. Through the information that the author provides, I learn that although alligators were once endangered, they now thrive in the swamps. I know that means there are many of them.

American Crocodiles

The American crocodile makes its home in the sunny warmth of southern **Florida**. Though it can be **aggressive**, the American crocodile is also **vocal**. It uses **over 20 different growls, squeals, snorts, and hisses** to communicate. Its **pointed snout helps the crocodile hunt fish**, which is a major part of the crocodile diet. Today, the American crocodile remains on the **endangered species list**.

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southeastern United States. The American alligator is considered by some to be **less aggressive** than the crocodile, but it's just as **vocal**. **One call sounds like the roar of a lion**. Its powerful, **u-shaped snout** enables the American alligator to **crush the hard shells of turtles and snails**.



Compare your Graphic Organizer with Paige's Graphic Organizer:

Paige's Graphic Organizer: "Because the author is comparing and contrasting crocodiles and alligators, I use a Venn Diagram."

Questions to Think About:

- How do signal words help Paige make sense of the text?
- How does a Venn Diagram help Paige determine important ideas?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

