

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Main Idea Passage

# Not Your Average Reptile

Alligators are just like any other reptile, right? They are cold-blooded, lay eggs, and have some of the roughest toughest skin in the animal kingdom. Wrong! Alligators are anything but average. These creatures are actually quite amazing. Let's take a look at some cool adaptations alligators have that make them rulers of the food chain.



First, alligators are amazing hunters. From their razor sharp teeth to their bullet-proof type skin, gators are practically hunting machines! As if that weren't enough, alligators are able to stay completely underwater for up to an hour. This allows them to remain totally hidden from their next meal. Once an alligator swallows its prey, their strong digestive system is able to break down animals (even bones) quickly.

Alligators are also very speedy for their size. Even on land, they are able to move at speeds up to 25 miles per hour for short periods of time. Their speed is even more impressive in water when they are able to use their strong, broad tails and short bendable limbs to propel themselves forward. It's no wonder they're able to surprise attack any animal they have their eye on.



Alligators are distant relatives of the ancient reptile *Deinosuchus* (Day-no-sook-us). This dinosaur reached lengths of over 30 feet, yet was still quick enough to leap out of water to capture its prey. Just like its alligator relative, these reptilians had large mouths full of teeth with strong jaws that were able to crush bone.

Read the article, then fill in the main idea. Next, write 3 details that support your main idea. Finally, write a mini-summary (2-3 sentences).

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Main Idea

## Not Your Average Reptile

Main Idea	Detail
Mini Summary	Detail
	Detail

## Day 5 Alligators

After rereading *Not Your Average Reptile*, answer the questions below. **Underline** where you found your answer. Use complete sentences in the article..

1. Why did the text say alligators aren't like any other reptile?

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2. What adaptations make the alligator a great hunter?

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3. How are alligators the same as their ancestor, the Deinosuchus?

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4. How are alligators different than the Deinosuchus?

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