

Science activate: Ally-gator



WHO: The American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) is the most abundant large predator in aquatic ecosystems along the U.S. Southeast coastal plain



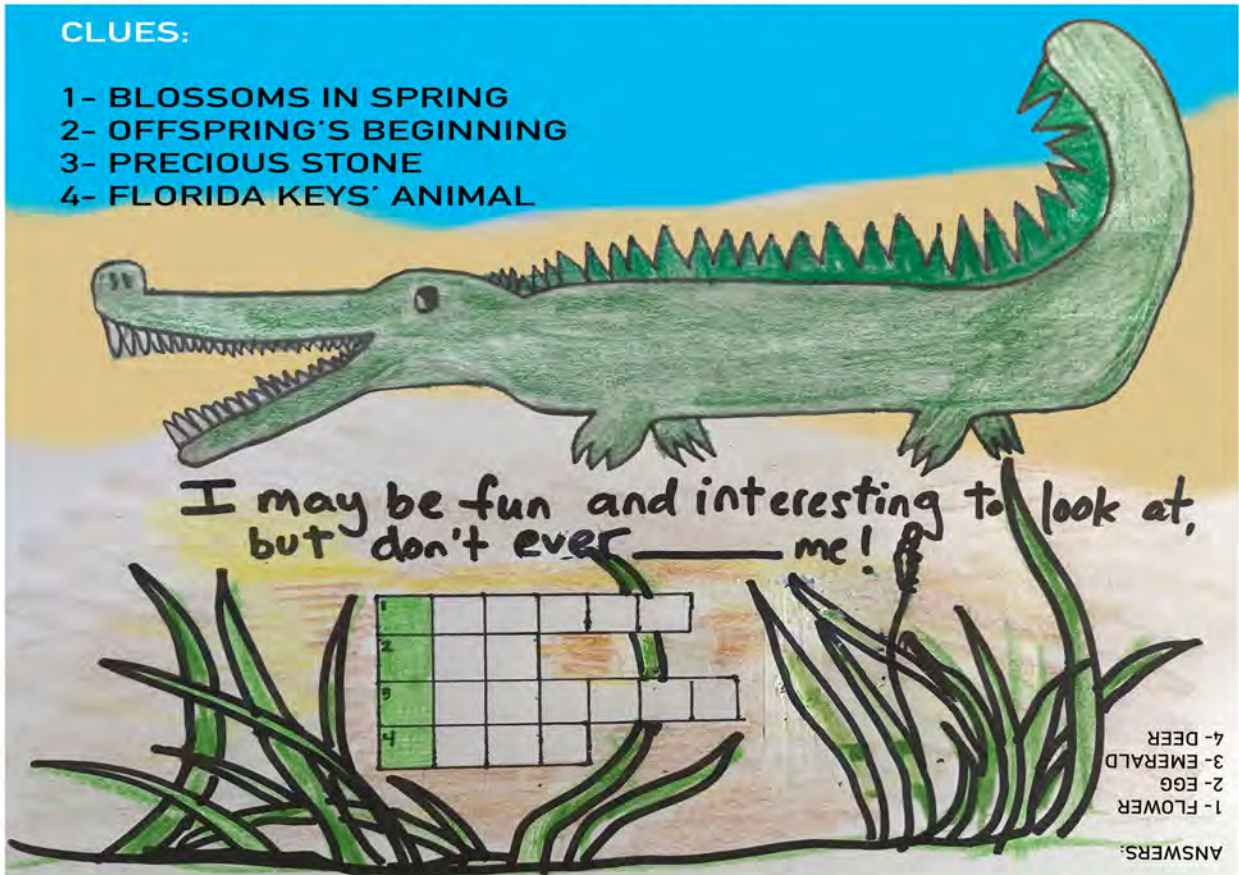
WHY: Alligators follow the food. Unlike their cousins, the crocodiles, alligators lack salt-secreting glands but that does not stop them from traveling from a freshwater ecosystem to a saltwater ecosystem, carrying nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus from place to place in the food they eat and excrete.



Find the hidden message this alligator has for you.

CLUES:

- 1- BLOSSOMS IN SPRING
- 2- OFFSPRING'S BEGINNING
- 3- PRECIOUS STONE
- 4- FLORIDA KEYS' ANIMAL



ANSWERS:
1- FLOWER
2- EGG
3- EMERALD
4- DEER

WHAT DO ALLIGATORS EAT?

List the different species alligators eat.

Adapted from: www.florida-alligator.com

To learn more about alligators and ecosystem, check out the links below:

Alligators aren't just freshwater animals

<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/alligators-arent-just-freshwater-animals>

American Alligator: Species Profile

<https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/alligator.htm>

For questions, e-mail: lili@coralgablesmuseum.org