

American Alligator:

Alligator mississippiensis



Saved from the brink of extinction, the American Alligator now thrives in its native habitat, the swamps and wetlands of the southeastern United States. These top predators feed mainly on fish, turtles, snakes and small mammals. However, as utmost opportunists, a hungry alligator will eat just about anything, including carrion, pets and, in rare instances, humans. Alligators in the wild are believed to live 35-50 years and may reach a length of 13 ft. and weigh 600 lbs. or more.

Female alligators exhibit parental care which is rare among reptiles, especially after the babies are hatched. The female gator will defend her nest of eggs from predators with great aggression. She is responsible for uncovering the nest of vegetation when the babies are ready to hatch. When the young are hatched, she will carry her babies in her mouth to move them until they are about one year old and big enough to fend for themselves. The American Alligator is the Louisiana State reptile.



Alligator habitat in yellow