



Imagine a creature with a strong, scaled body, sharp teeth, and a snout that's simply unforgettable: that's the Chinese alligator for you! This amazing creature, also known as the 'Yangtze alligator', is smaller than its American cousin, but don't let its size fool you. Its body is covered in hard, bumpy scales that are mostly dark grey or black, with a softer underbelly that's a creamy yellow. And did I mention they have around 80 teeth in their strong jaws? Now that's a toothy grin!

Taking a leap from their toothy grins, let's dive into the world where these fabulous creatures live. Chinese alligators are most at home in fresh water environments, like rivers, lakes, and marshes in eastern China. Unfortunately, due to habitat loss, there are now only a few hundred of these alligators left in the wild. But don't worry, many are being taken care of in zoos and breeding centers to help their population grow.

Speaking of growing, Chinese alligators have a fascinating life cycle. After a female lays her eggs, she guards them closely until they hatch, showing just how caring these creatures can be. Once the little alligators are born, they stick with their mom for a while, learning all the alligator tricks of the trade. These little alligators grow up to be quite the hunters, eating fish, snails, and even small mammals!



Now, you might be wondering how these alligators get along with other animals, including us humans. Chinese alligators are generally shy and prefer to stay away from people, but they can defend themselves if they need to with their strong tails and powerful jaws. They play an important role in their ecosystem, controlling the population of certain animals and helping to keep the environment balanced. So remember, while they might look scary, Chinese alligators are a unique and important part of our world's wildlife.



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What color are Chinese alligator's scales?  
A. Yellow or brown  
B. Green or brown  
C. Dark grey or black  
D. Blue or black
- 2) What is the Chinese alligator also known as?  
A. The Beijing gator  
B. The Yangtze alligator  
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- 3) Where do Chinese alligators live?  
A. Estuaries, lagoons, and lakes in western China  
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A. to perform in shows  
B. to protect them from predators  
C. to help their population grow  
D. to be pets for people
- 6) Approximately how many teeth do Chinese Alligators have?  
A. 80  
B. 100  
C. 120  
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A. A few dozen  
B. A few thousand  
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D. Tens of thousands
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B. Fish, snails, and small mammals  
C. Grass, leaves, and fruits  
D. Birds, eggs, and insects
- 10) What is causing the decrease in wild Chinese alligator populations?  
A. lack of food  
B. disease  
C. too much hunting  
D. habitat loss

**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 11) "There are millions of us Chinese alligators in the wild."



- 12) "My kind is getting smaller in numbers, but there are lots of humans taking care of us."
- 13) "You can find my family in zoos, where they take care of us if we lose our home."
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- 22) "Did you know my snout is very special? It's what makes me different from other alligators."

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 23) Chinese alligators eat fish, snails, and small mammals.
- 24) It is great that many Chinese alligators who lost their homes to habitat loss are being taken care of in zoos.
- 25) After a female Chinese alligator lays her eggs, she guards them until they hatch.
- 26) The fact that Chinese alligators eat snails is disgusting.
- 27) Chinese alligators live in fresh water environments.
- 28) Seeing a Chinese alligator in the wild would be a thrilling experience.
- 29) The body of a chinese alligator is covered in hard, bumpy scales.
- 30) There are currently only a few hundred Chinese alligators left in the wild.
- 31) Chinese alligators being smaller than American ones makes them cuter.
- 32) Chinese alligators are one of the most unique looking alligators in the world with their bumpy scales and snout.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 33) Chinese alligators prefer to stay away from people.
- 34) Chinese alligators are larger in size than American alligators.
- 35) Chinese alligators have a soft underbelly.
- 36) The underbelly of the Chinese alligator is grey or black.
- 37) There are only a few hundred Chinese alligators left in the wild.
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 43) Chinese alligators have a lifespan of around 50 years.
- 44) How long can Chinese alligators submerge underwater?
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- 46) Chinese alligators are an endangered species.
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| 1. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 26. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 2. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 27. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 3. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 28. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
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| 7. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 32. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 8. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 33. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 9. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 34. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 10. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>       | 35. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
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| 17. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 42. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 18. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 43. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 19. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 44. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 20. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 45. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 21. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 46. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
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