

Crocodiles



Name

Score

Level and grade

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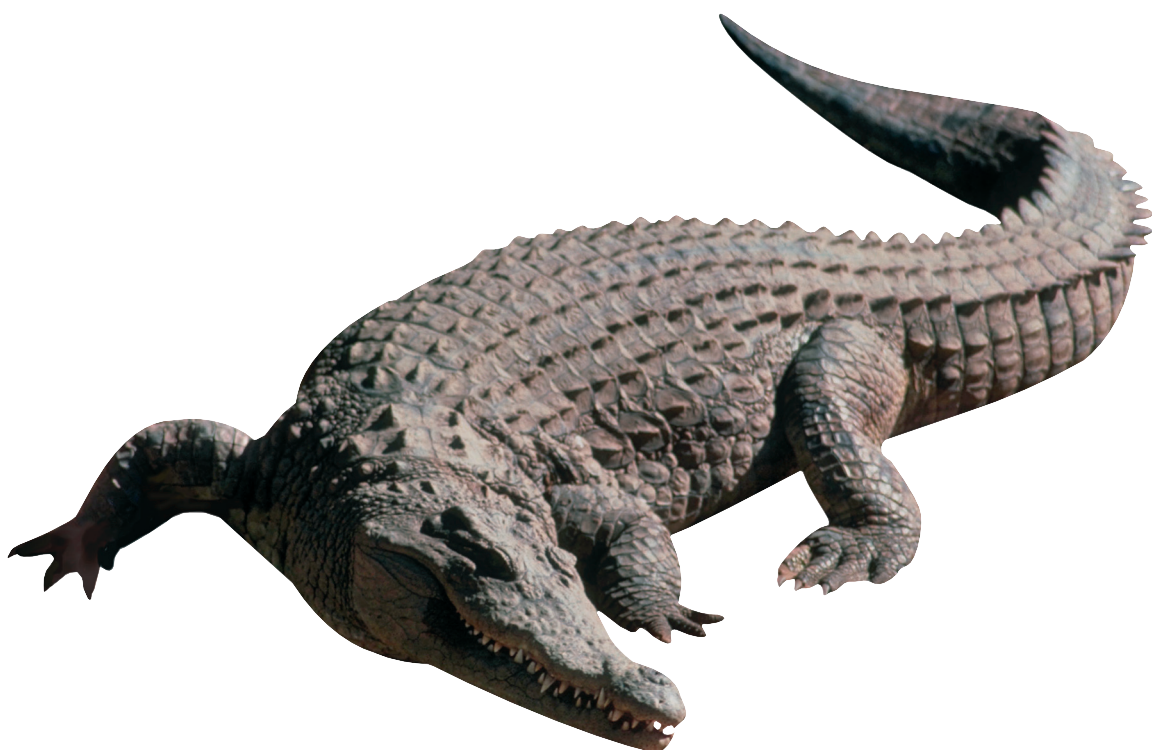
A story by Margaret Mayo

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The characters in the story



Monkey



Crocodile

Useful words

mango



snout

mistaken

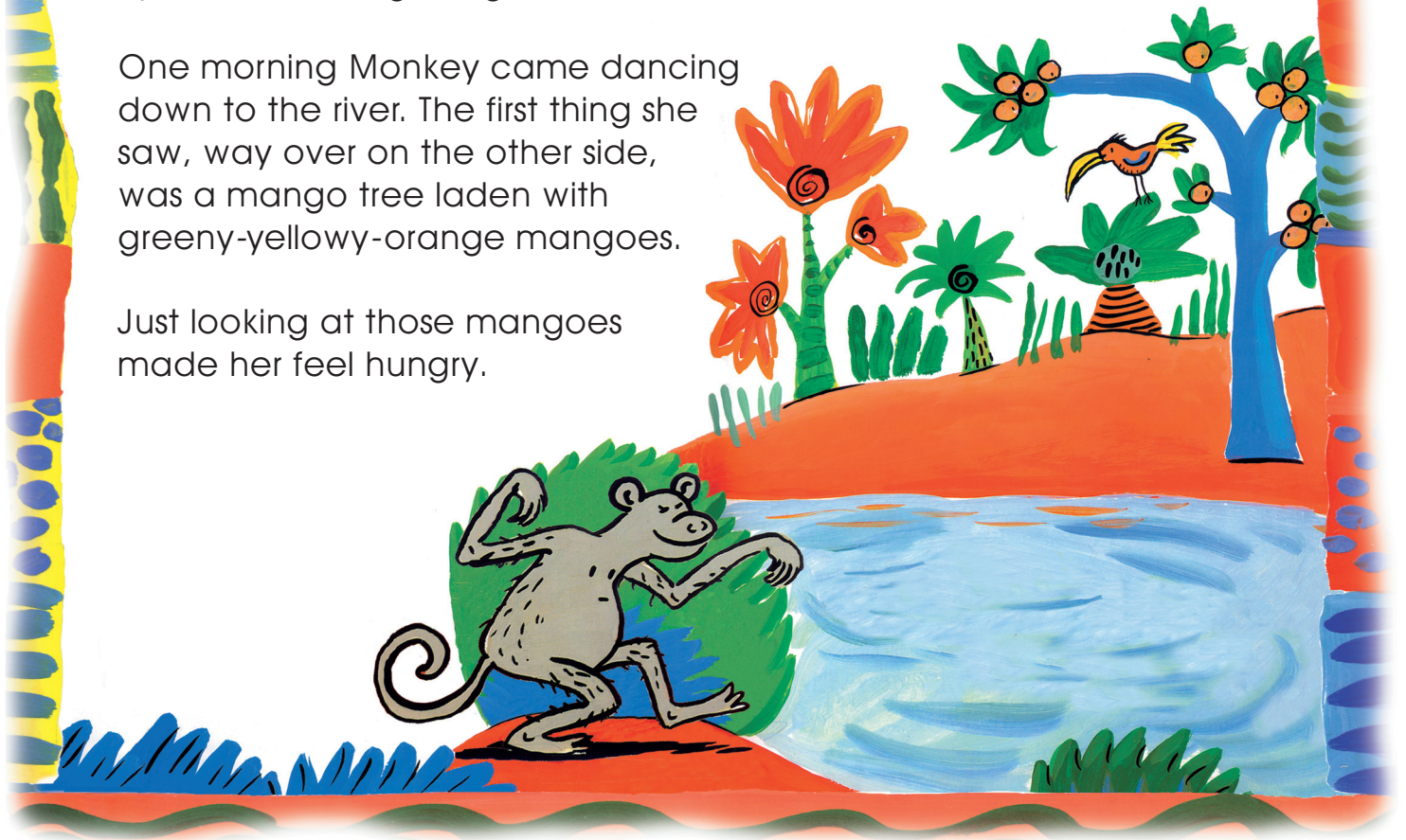
scr-ump-tious

How to Count Crocodiles

Once there was a monkey who was always up to tricks and getting into mischief.

One morning Monkey came dancing down to the river. The first thing she saw, way over on the other side, was a mango tree laden with greeny-yellow-orange mangoes.

Just looking at those mangoes made her feel hungry.



Practice questions

A What fruit was growing on the tree?

oranges

bananas

lemons

mangoes

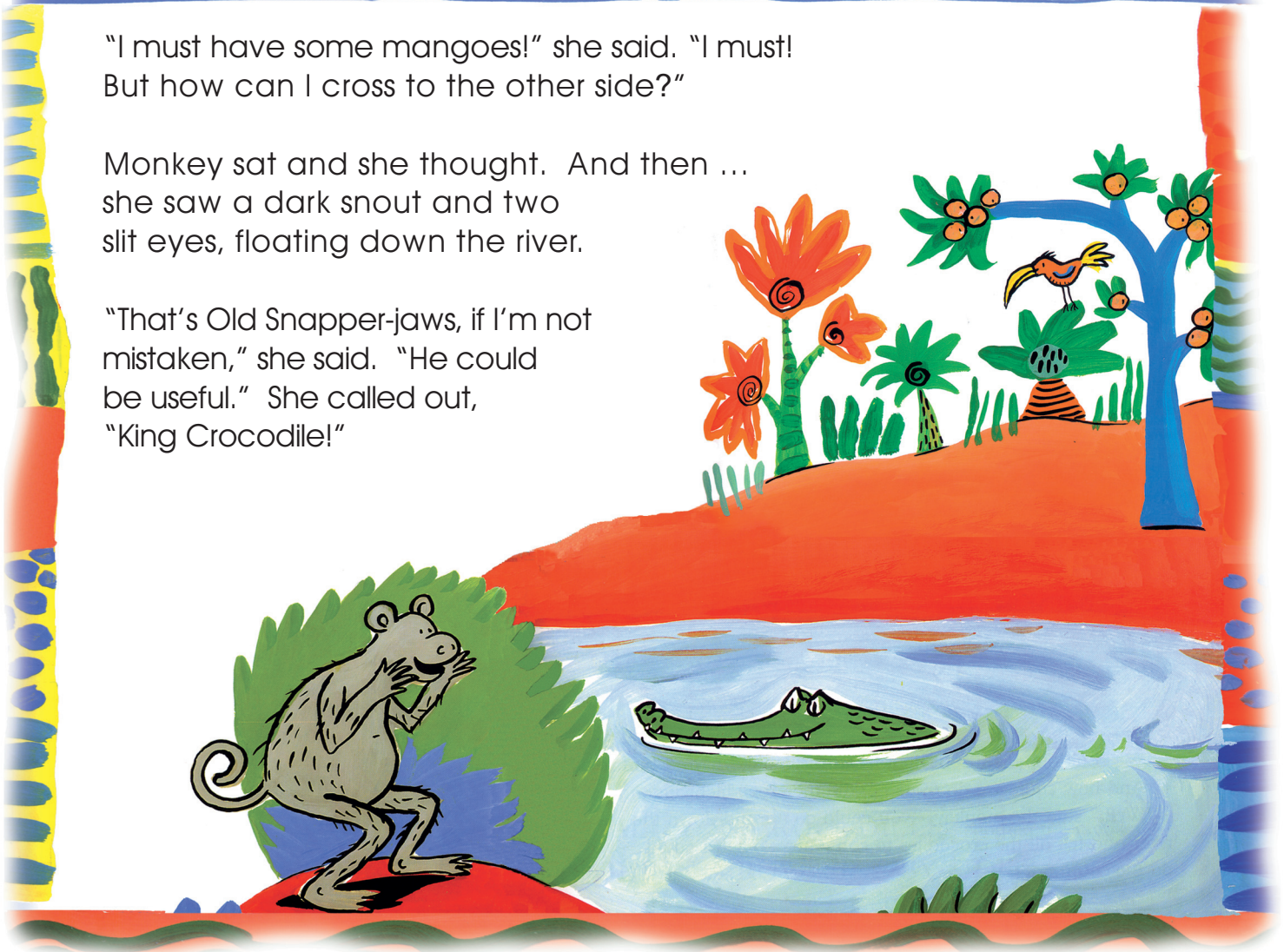
B Where was the tree?

.....

"I must have some mangoes!" she said. "I must! But how can I cross to the other side?"

Monkey sat and she thought. And then ... she saw a dark snout and two slit eyes, floating down the river.

"That's Old Snapper-jaws, if I'm not mistaken," she said. "He could be useful." She called out, "King Crocodile!"



1 What would Monkey have to do to get the mangoes?

cross the field

cross the road

cross the river

cross the path



2 What two names did Monkey call Crocodile?

1.

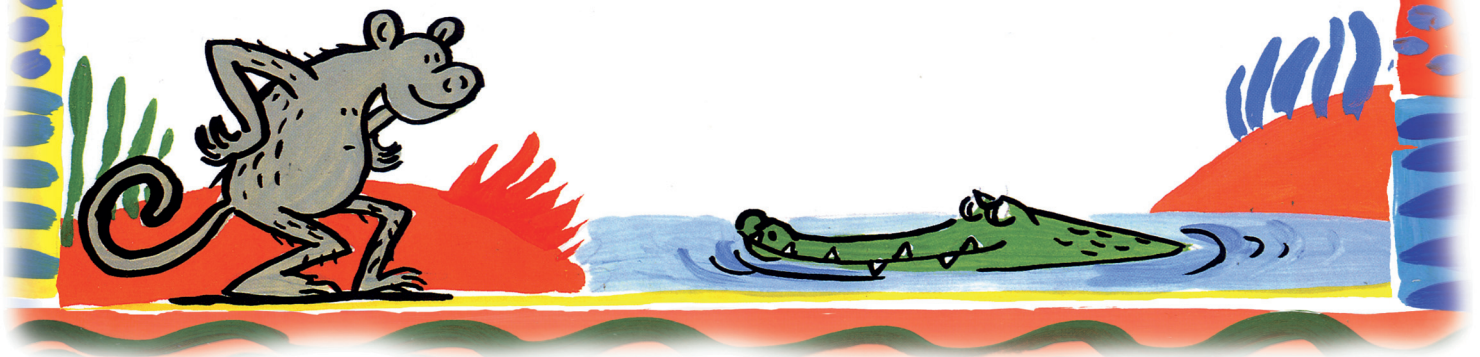
2.



Crocodile lifted his head out of the water.

"I have been thinking," said Monkey. "There are lots of crocodiles living around here. But I bet there are more monkeys. Lots and lots more."

"Not true!" said Crocodile. "There are lots more crocodiles than monkeys!"



3 Why did Crocodile say "Not true"?

because he didn't understand

because he had counted them

because he didn't agree

because he was king

4 Who said there were more crocodiles than monkeys?

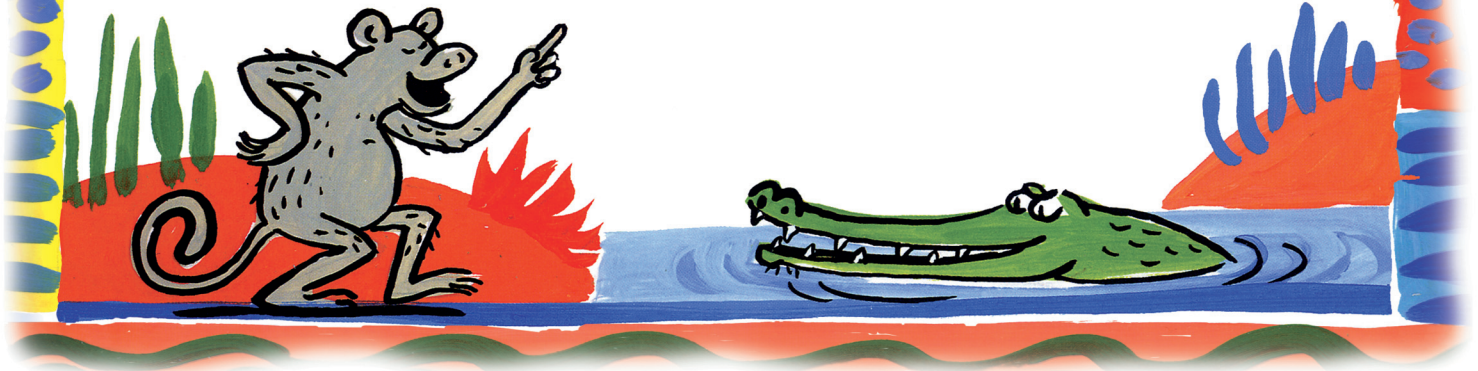
.....

"We could do some counting," said Monkey, "and find out."

"And how could we do that?" asked Crocodile.

"Well," said Monkey, "you could go up and down the river and tell all the crocodiles to come here. Then I could do the counting."

"After that, you could get all the monkeys to come," said Crocodile, and he grinned. "And we could ea ... oops ... I mean count them."



5 What did Monkey want Crocodile to do?

.....

6 Why did Crocodile grin?

to show his teeth

he thought Monkey was funny

to show he could count

he thought he could eat the monkeys

Then Crocodile swam up and down the river, telling his friends to come to a Big Crocodile Count.

It was not long before there was a great big tangle of crocodiles, twisting and turning, in the river near where Monkey sat.



7 Who did Crocodile talk to when he went up and down the river?

.....

8 Which word tells you that the crocodiles were in a muddle?

tangle

turning

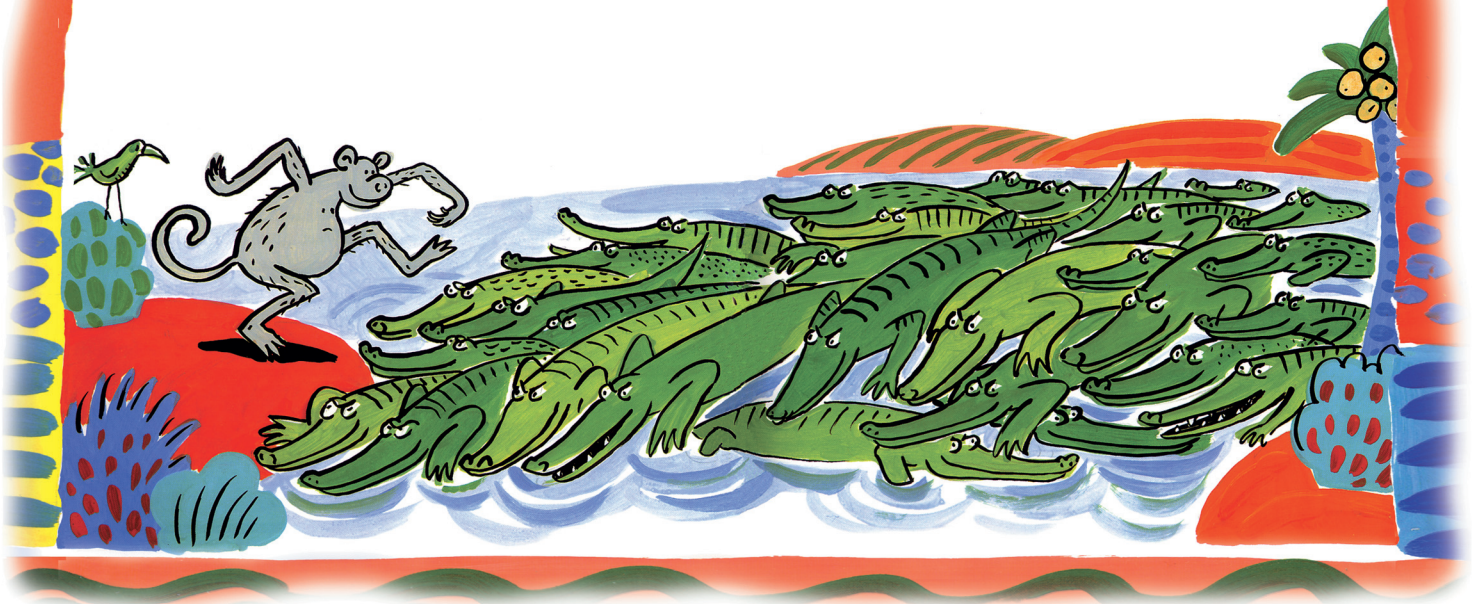
counting

swam

"ALL YOU CROCODILES!" shouted Monkey.
"GET IN A LINE! SIDE BY SIDE!"

And the crocodiles swam around until they had made a line that reached from one river bank right across to the other.

Monkey jumped on the back of the nearest crocodile and counted, "ONE!"



9 Why is "ALL YOU CROCODILES!" in capital letters?

.....

10 How did the crocodiles get into a line?

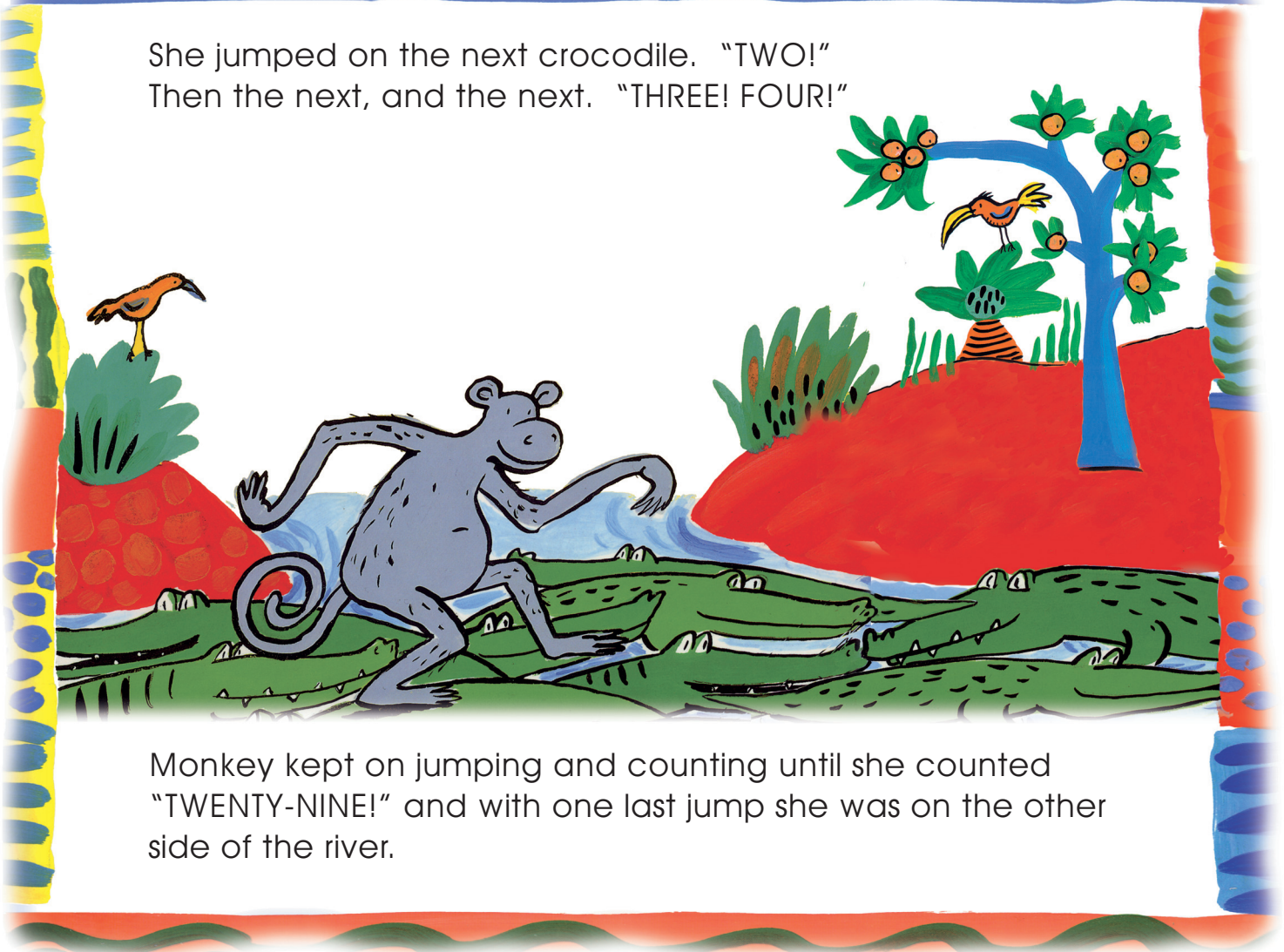
They jumped.

They swam.

They shouted.

They counted.

She jumped on the next crocodile. "TWO!"
Then the next, and the next. "THREE! FOUR!"



Monkey kept on jumping and counting until she counted "TWENTY-NINE!" and with one last jump she was on the other side of the river.

11 What did Crocodile **think** Monkey was trying to do?

.....

12 What was Monkey **really** trying to do?

.....



Monkey danced over to the mango tree. She climbed it, reached out, picked a greeny-yellow-orange mango, and took a big bite. "Ooooh!" she said. "This mango is scr-ump-tious!"

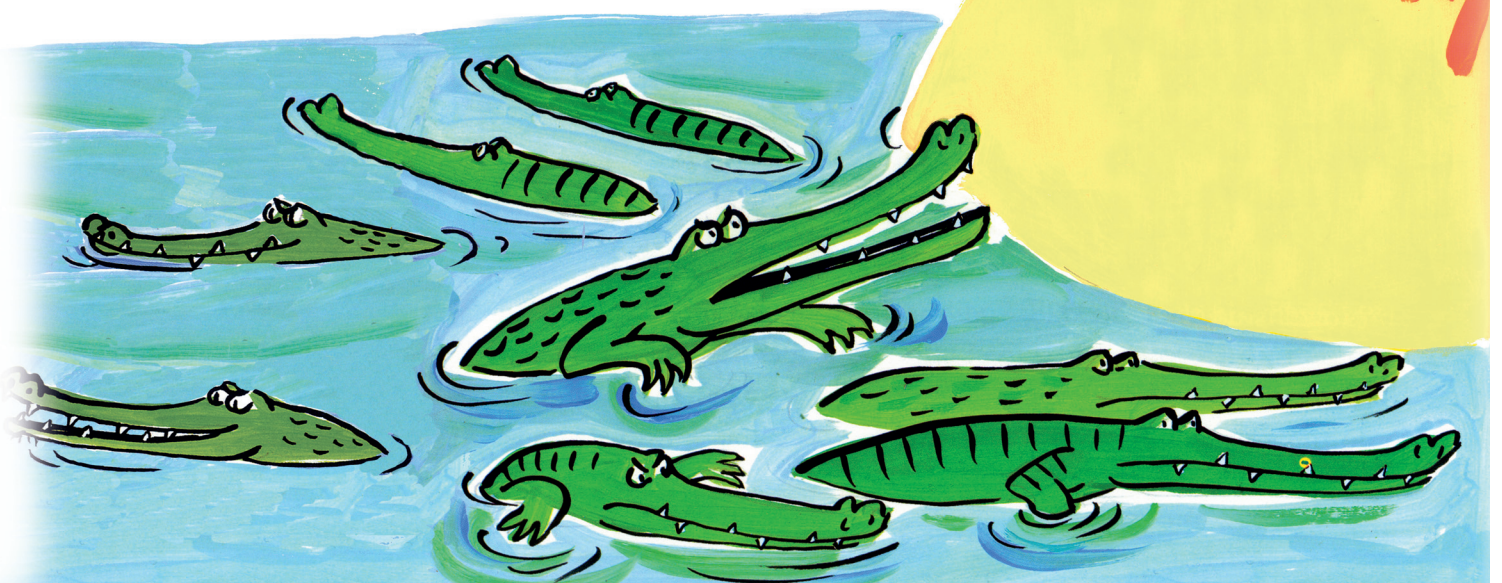
"Now," said Crocodile, "go and fetch all the monkeys and line them up along the bank so I can count them."

"Go and fetch all the monkeys?" said Monkey with a cheeky smile. "I wasn't planning to do that!"

"And why not?" asked Crocodile.

"Old Snapper-jaws," said Monkey, "I don't care whether there are more monkeys. I only wanted to cross the river so I could eat some mangoes."

Then twenty-nine angry crocodiles went swimming off to look for their dinner. And, to this day, what crocodiles like to eat most of all is ... monkey! The trouble is monkeys are very, very, hard to catch.



13 What did Monkey do to show that she was happy?

She danced.

She climbed.

She jumped.

She counted.

14 Why did Monkey call Crocodile *Old Snapper-jaws* instead of *King Crocodile*?

because Crocodile was angry

because she had stopped being nice to him

because she wanted to be nice to him

because Crocodile told her to

15 Why were the crocodiles angry?

.....
.....

16 How did Monkey trick the crocodiles?

by calling them names

by pretending she wanted to eat mangoes

by telling them jokes

by pretending she wanted to count them



Useful words

jeep

nostrils

stomach

swallow

Crocodiles

In this part of the booklet you are going to find out about crocodiles and about a man called Steve Irwin who was famous for working with them.

Crocodiles are a type of reptile. Crocodiles live in rivers and lakes. They come from hot parts of the world.

Steve Irwin loved crocodiles ever since he was a small boy. Steve worked at Australia Zoo in Queensland, Australia.



He wrote about crocodiles and other reptiles and worked on television programmes.

Practice questions

A What did Steve Irwin do?

.....

B Where do crocodiles come from?

the sea

hot countries

gardens

cold countries



Catching Crocodiles

One of Steve's jobs was to catch crocodiles so they could be moved away from places where they might hurt or scare people. Catching crocodiles is hard and dangerous work but Steve was very good at it. He caught his first crocodile when he was only nine years old.

Steve was very careful not to hurt the crocodile. He jumped onto it and held it around the neck.



17 Why do crocodiles have to be moved?

so that they grow bigger

so that they cannot hurt people

to take them to the zoo

to put them in water



18 How did Steve catch the crocodile?

.....



At first the crocodile tried very hard to get away. Steve had to be very strong and hold onto the crocodile until it got tired and stopped fighting. When the crocodile was still, Steve put it into a special bag. The special bag stopped the crocodile from moving about or biting.



Steve then took the crocodile to a new home.

19 What did Steve do with the crocodile when it was still?

let it go

held onto it

put it in a bag

jumped on its back



20 Where did Steve take the crocodile?

.....





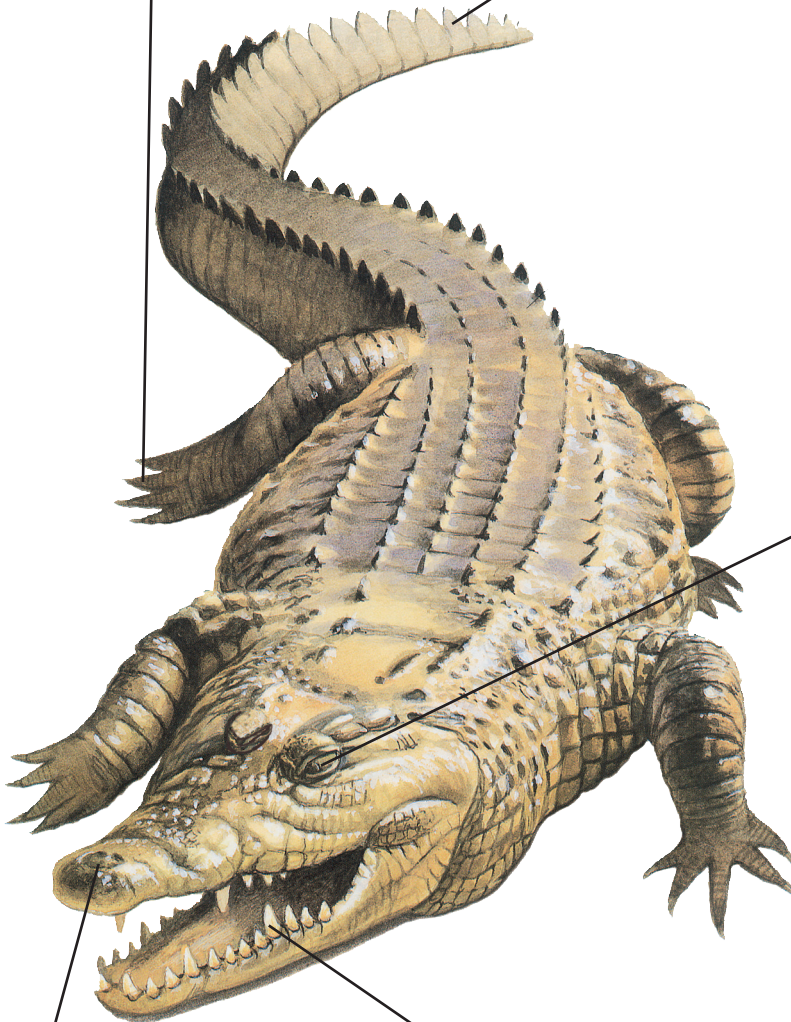
Meet the Crocodile

Feet

The crocodile's back feet are webbed, like a frog's.

Tail

The crocodile moves itself in the water by beating its tail from side to side.



Eyes

The crocodile's eyes are close together on the top of its head. This means it can lie almost under the water but can still see what is going on.

Nostrils

The crocodile's nostrils are right at the end of its snout. It uses its nostrils to breathe when the rest of its body is under water.

Teeth

The crocodile has more than 60 sharp pointed teeth. Crocodiles lose and grow new teeth all the time.

21 When a crocodile is lying under the water, which parts of its body can you see?

Tick 2.

feet

teeth

nostrils

tail

eyes

22 Why does the crocodile beat its tail from side to side?

.....

23 Why does the crocodile have eyes on top of its head?

.....

24 Look at the picture.
What are the labels for?

to tell a story about the crocodile

to show you what the crocodile eats

to tell you about the parts of the crocodile

to show you where the crocodile lives

Amazing

Food

Crocodiles do not need to feed often. Some crocodiles only eat twice a year.

Crocodiles do not chew their food. They tear off large chunks and swallow them whole. Stones have been found in the stomachs of crocodiles. The stones help the crocodiles to break up the food.



This young crocodile must learn to hunt. It looks for food that it can swallow whole, such as this dragonfly.

25 How often do crocodiles eat?

.....○

26 How do crocodiles eat their food?

They tear off chunks.

They chew it well.

They spit it out.

They bite little pieces.

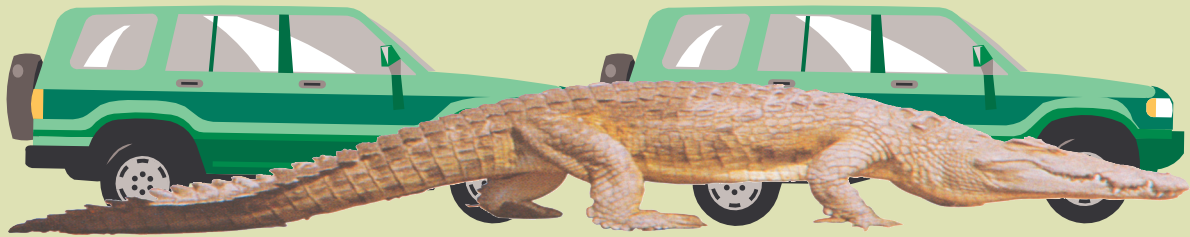
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Crocodile Facts

Size

Crocodiles never stop growing. A baby crocodile is shorter than a ruler. Young crocodiles grow about 30cm a year. Older crocodiles grow about 4cm a year.

The longest crocodile ever seen was over eight metres long. That is as long as two jeeps.



Age

A really old crocodile can live for over 100 years.

27 How long is a baby crocodile?

4cm

shorter than a ruler

longer than two jeeps

shorter than a finger

28 How old do some crocodiles live to be?

.....

Adapted from *How to Count Crocodiles* by Margaret Mayo. Published by Orion Children's Books.

Picture acknowledgements:

Steve Irwin and crocodile (pages 13, 14 and 15) from *The Crocodile Hunter* by Steve and Terri Irwin. Crocodile (page 16) from *Natural World: Crocodile* by Joyce Pope. Young crocodile and dragonfly (page 18) from *Really Wild Crocodiles* by Claire Robinson.

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