



Noah's Trip to Everglades National Park

Everglades National Park in Florida is one of the only places to see both alligators and reptiles in the same place. The American alligator and the American crocodile can both be found in Florida. Alligators and crocodiles both belong to the reptile group called crocodylians.

Noah enjoyed seeing both alligators and crocodiles in the wild on a recent airboat ride through the Everglades. On the tour through Shark Valley (which doesn't have any sharks) he saw a green and brown female crocodile laying her eggs in the mud. He learned from his tour guide, Orlando, that crocodiles can live to be 70 to 100 years old. Usually crocodiles are more aggressive than alligators, especially around their young.

Noah also learned from Orlando that although crocodiles and alligators look similar, there are differences. When you look at a crocodile, you can see some of their teeth, even when their mouth is closed. They have a V-shaped, pointed snout.

Later in the tour Noah saw a female alligator laying her eggs in a low bush near the river's edge. Alligators live about 30 to 50 years. Alligators also have a wide U-shaped, rounded snout. Their snout is designed for strength and is capable of withstanding the stress of cracking open turtle shells for dinner.

Noah also saw many birds and snakes on his tour. He also saw a raccoon, skunk, and white-tail deer. He wished he had seen a bobcat!