

In the following paragraph, underline the topic sentence, and draw a box around supporting details.

1. Alligators and crocodiles belong to the group of reptiles called crocodylians. Everglades National Park in Florida is one of the only places outside a zoo, to see both alligators and reptiles in the same place. The American alligator and the American crocodile can both be found in Florida. Mike saw a green and brown female crocodile laying her eggs in the mud and learned from his tour guide, Ricardo, that crocodiles can live to be 70 to 100 years old. Crocodiles can be more aggressive than alligators he learned, especially around their young. Mike can see the V-shaped, pointed snout and some of the crocodile's teeth when their mouth is closed. Crocodiles can swim in saltwater and brackish (slightly salty) water because they have salt glands. Later in the tour, Ricardo pointed out a female alligator laying her eggs in a low bush near the river's edge. Alligators average 30-50 years of life and 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. In his pictures, Mike can't see the alligator's teeth when it's mouth is closed because the jaws overlap. Alligators swim in freshwater because their salt glands are non-functioning. Mike loved the Everglades National Park and can't wait to return next vacation. His pictures will help remind him of the great time he had learning about the American alligator and the American crocodile. Mike learned that while both alligators and crocodiles belong to the group of reptiles called crocodylians, they have quite a few differences.