American Alligator Questions

North American Wildlife

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. To what FAMILY does the American Alligator belong?
2. How long has the alligator survived on Earth?
3. What caused alligator populations to plummet in the middle of 20th century?
4. How is the health of the American Alligator population today?
5. What is the range of the American Alligator in the United States?
6. List three ways to distinguish alligators from crocodiles.
7. What type of habitat is best for alligators?
8. List three prey items that adult alligators feed on.
9. List three prey items that juvenile alligators feed on.
10. What is the alligator’s role as an apex predator in wetlands?
11. Describe the so-called “gator holes”.
12. What benefit do “gator holes” provide to the wetlands?
13. How do alligators warn others that they are in their territory?
14. When does breeding begin for American Alligators?
15. What is an alligator nest made up of?
16. How many eggs does the female alligator lay?
17. How does the mother alligator keep her eggs warm?
18. How long is the incubation period of the eggs?
19. How does the mother know to dog her young out of the mound?
20. At what age can alligators begin to breed?
21. How large do male alligators get?
22. How long do alligators typically live?
23. What governmental agencies had a key role in saving the alligator as a species?
24. How did the Endangered Species Act protect alligators?
25. When was the American Alligator officially removed from the Endangered Species List?
26. What animals that are related to alligators are still in trouble?