

WILDLY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

ALLIGATOR BAY FEEDING

Giant reptiles eating in a natural environment.



Venturing onto the main walking trail, students walk beneath the joined canopy of tropical trees. Coconut palms and a host of other botanical species surround the acres of sun sparkled waters of Alligator Bay. As students look more past the trees and colorful plants, giant reptiles come into view.

The waters are home to a select number of gators allowing Alligator Bay to offer students a look at how alligators are naturally seen here and there in the wilds of the southeastern United States -- gliding through the waters or sunning on the banks and islands.

With well over one million alligators sharing the state, learning more about these popular creatures is the focus of Alligator Bay. Around the shore of the bay, a series of interpretive graphics dispel some of the myths of alligator lore. This natural lake environment is also home to numerous native species including an annual rookery of herons.

You'll learn the truths behind the myths. For example, with a top speed around 11 m.p.h., alligators will NEVER outrun a horse. But they can move in surprising ways. Alligators are stealth hunters. They will jump out of the water to grab animals out of low branches overhanging waterways.

During the feedings, lecturers inform about the habits of these creatures while hand-feeding them from the shore. Students gain an appreciation of the hidden strength and size of the alligator.

Additional Resources:

Zoo's Gator Info http://www.napleszoo.org/Visitor_Info/zoo-events/alligatorbay.html

Croc or Gator? http://www.napleszoo.org/Plants_Animals/animal-files/croc-or-gator.htm

Crocodylian Biology Site www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herpetology/brittoncrocs/csp_amis.htm

St. Augustine Alligator Farm (See FAQ) <http://www.alligatorfarm.us/>

US Geological Survey Alligator Information <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2004/3105/pdf/fs-2004-3105-Rice.pdf>

Conservation in the Classroom: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/kids/>

Alligators help the Everglades. By conserving water, we can, too.

More Info: 239.262.5409 ext. 127 or group@napleszoo.org

Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens

www.NAPLESZOO.org

