

Crocodiles are large semiaquatic reptiles that live throughout Africa, Asia, the Americas and Australia. In the rainforest, you should be extremely careful around water - 90% of crocodile attacks take place in or near water. When setting up your camp, you should make sure that it is at least 50 metres from the water's edge.



They live in freshwater, and can often be found in the rivers flowing through the rainforest. You should also be aware that crocodiles are most active at night time - you can use a torch to check for eye-shine (reflection off a crocodile's eyes) if it's dark. While crocodiles will not always attack any human they meet, they are opportunistic hunters, so may attack anything that moves! There are about 1,000 crocodile attacks on humans worldwide each year, so it's important to know how to avoid crocodiles, and how to react if you do encounter one, when you're exploring the rainforest. Seek medical attention immediately if a crocodile has bitten you, as crocodile bites are likely to lead to an infection. In the meantime, clean the wound and wrap it in a bandage. Crocodiles can memorise people's habits and campsite layout, so if you are staying in the rainforest for longer periods of time, it's wise to move camp regularly. Crocodiles can become intimidated and back away if you out-stare them.

Keep as far away from the crocodile as possible (at least 25 metres, as crocodiles are very fast in water). If you fall into crocodile-infested water, remain calm and do not splash. Swim to shore as quickly and as quietly as possible. If a crocodile snaps at you on land, run! Crocodiles are fairly slow on land. Attack the crocodile's eyes with a stick, if he tries to attack you, as this is the most vulnerable part of a crocodile's body.

### Glossary

- Semiaquatic reptile - a reptile who lives partially on land and partially in water.
- Eye-shine - the reflection off a crocodile's eyes.