

Nonfiction

Go, Gator!

by Diane Furuichi



Mc
Graw
Hill

PAIRED
READ

Poetry

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Ask and Answer Questions

Skill: Main Idea and Key Details

Vocabulary

find, food, more, over,
search, seek, start, warm

Phonics

long o: o, oa, ow, oe

Content Standards

Science

Life Science

Word count: 228**

Photography Credit: Cover Image Source/Philippe Henry/Oxford Scientific/Getty Images

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.

CCSS

Genre Nonfiction



Essential Question

How do animals survive in nature?

Go, Gator!

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**PAIRED
READ**

Poetry: Ducklings13



Look over there. What's in the water? It's an alligator!



The alligator floats in warm water. Do you see the eyes and nose?

Look at the alligator's skin.
It's thick and bumpy. It
has pointy spikes.





Paul E. Tessier/Photodisc/Getty Images

Alligators search for food at night. Their teeth are sharp. Their jaws are strong.

The alligator is hungry.
It's time to seek food. An
animal is moving! *SNAP!* It
could be a raccoon.





A raccoon makes a small meal. A big meal is better. It can last more than a year.

An alligator can move fast if it has to! Its front feet have five toes. Its back feet have four.



back foot



The alligator's tail is long.
It is flat too. It helps the
alligator swim fast.

Baby alligators come from eggs. The mom makes a nest. She stays near her eggs.



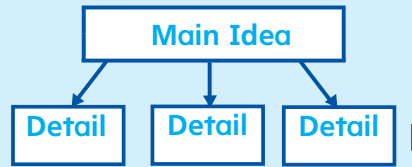


She keeps the babies safe.
The babies grow big. Then
they go off. They start to
find their own food.

Respond to Reading

Retell

Use the chart to help you retell *Go, Gator!*



Text Evidence

1. Look at page 8. How many toes are on an alligator's front foot? [Main Idea and Key Details](#)
2. Look at page 10. What is the main idea? [Main Idea and Key Details](#)
3. How can you tell that the alligators in *Go, Gator!* are real? [Genre](#)

Compare Texts

Read a poem about animals that are small and soft.

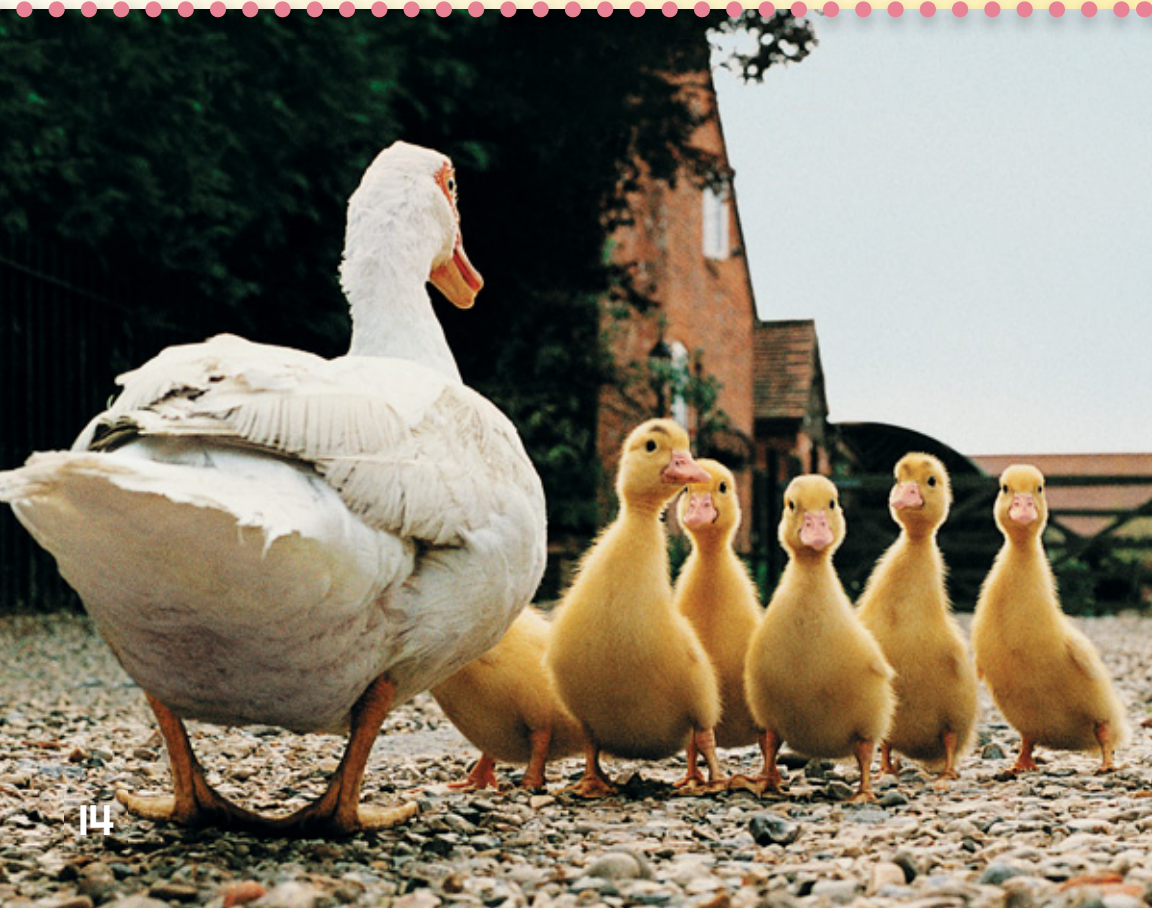
Ducklings



Fuzzy little quacking puffs
All dressed up in yellow
fluff.

Waddling as they cross
a street
Paddling with their big
webbed feet
Swimming down the
stream to play
Downy ducklings
on their way.

Digital Vision/Getty Images





Mama duck will teach
her brood

How to dive to find
their food.

Mama duck will lead
her pack

All the way downstream
and back!

This busy day has been
the best.

Now the ducklings have
to rest!

PhotoBliss/Alamy



Make Connections

How are the ducklings like the baby alligators in *Go, Gator!?* [Text to Text](#)

Focus on Science

Purpose To find out about wild animals that live near you

What to Do

Step 1

Look for animals outside.
.....

Step 2

Write the names of animals you see.
.....

Step 3

Write a sentence about one animal. Draw a picture to go with your sentence.

Conclusion Share your sentence and picture with the class.

Thinkmark

The Topic

What is *Go, Gator!* mostly about?

Author's Purpose

Why do you think the author wrote *Go, Gator!?*

Make Connections

How are alligators like other wild animals you have read about?