

Comprehension

Genre

A **Nonfiction Article** gives information about real people, things, or events.

Reread

Summarize

To summarize an article, you tell the most important ideas without retelling the whole article.

Meet the Super Croc

Did a crocodile the size of a school bus once live on Earth?

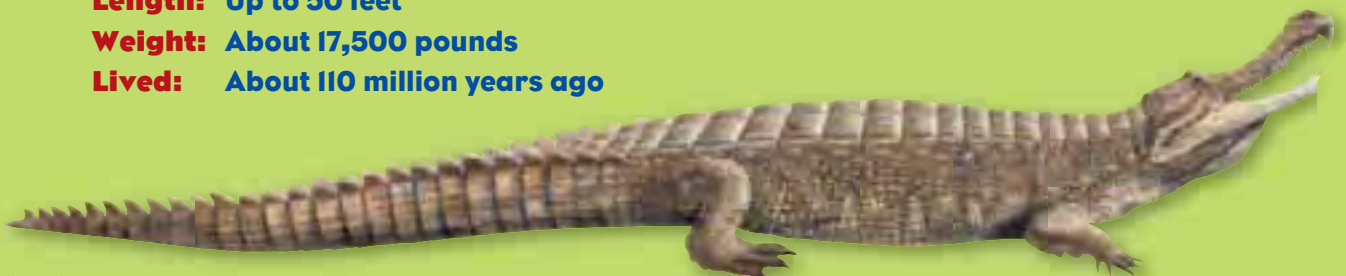
What kind of animal was it? Its body was about 40 feet long. That's about the size of a school bus. Its jaws were about 5 feet long. That's about as long as some people are tall! It had about 100 teeth.

Name: *Sarcosuchus imperator* ("Super Croc")

Length: Up to 50 feet

Weight: About 17,500 pounds

Lived: About 110 million years ago



This powerful creature hid in the water, waiting for an animal to come to the river for a drink. Any animal that was grabbed by those teeth would be **unable** to get away.

Don't worry! This toothy giant is no longer alive today. It lived about 110 million years ago, when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. That's about 105 million years before human beings were around.

This drawing shows what scientists think "Super Croc" looked like.



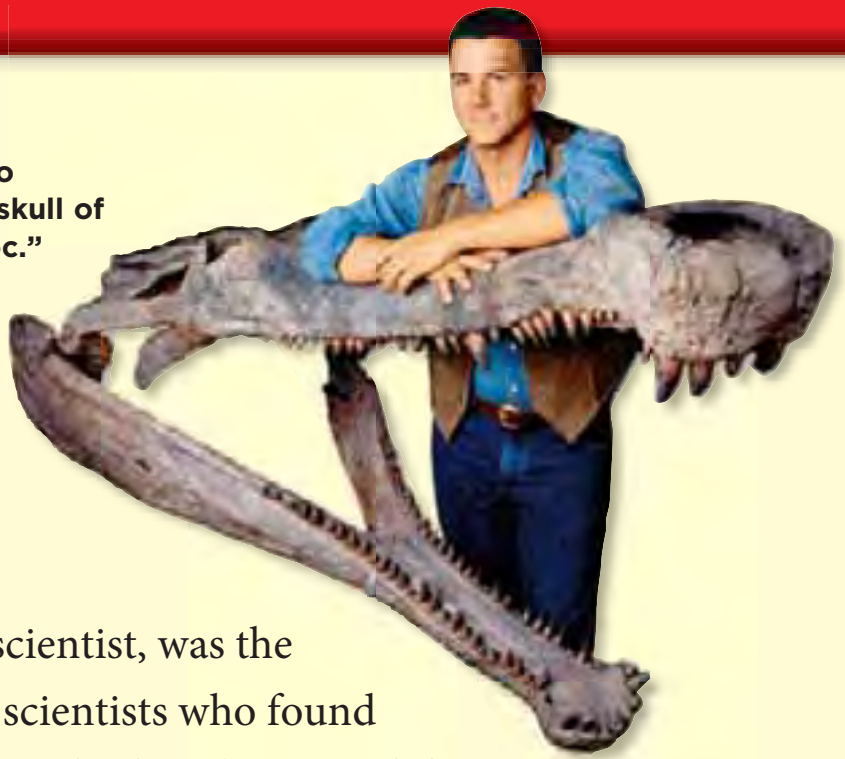
Name: Australian crocodile
Length: Up to 23 feet
Weight: About 2,000 pounds
Lives: Alive today



Name: American alligator
Length: Up to 20 feet
Weight: About 1,300 pounds
Lives: Alive today



Paul Sereno shows the skull of “Super Croc.”



Paul Sereno, a scientist, was the leader of a team of scientists who found the bones of the animal. They discovered them in Niger, a country in Africa.

Sereno and his team were **hopeful** the bones belonged to a kind of giant crocodile from the time of the dinosaurs. But they weren't sure. The whole team needed to study the bones before they could **confirm** their theory. They compared the bones to the bodies of crocodiles living today. If the bones were similar, the theory would be **valid**.



These maps show the country in Africa where “Super Croc” fossils were found.

The shape of the head and skull bones gave Sereno and his team the proof they were looking for. The **ancient** bones belonged to a “Super Croc” that lived at the same time the dinosaurs lived on Earth.

Sereno made copies of the bones to keep in the United States. The original bones were sent back to the country of Niger. If you want to see the real “Super Croc,” the bones are on display in a museum there.

A young boy checks out the model of “Super Croc.”



Think and Compare



1. How would you summarize this article?
2. How did Paul Sereno prove his theory?
3. If you were a scientist like Paul Sereno, what would you want to study?
4. Compare the creature described in “Boy Finds Fossils!” with “Super Croc.” How are they the same? How are they different?

Some Strange Teeth



Test Strategy

Think and Search

Read on to find the answer. Look for information in more than one place.

Dinosaur fossil hunters were digging on Madagascar. It is an island off the coast of Africa. The team found something that looked like the lower jaw of an animal. It had strange sharp teeth. Was it a dinosaur bone?

“We thought it could be a crocodile or a flying reptile,” the team leader said. Scientists studied the hook-shaped teeth. The team discovered that this animal lived 70 million years ago and ate fish and insects. For a dinosaur, it wasn’t very big.

Madagascar is a good place for finding dinosaur bones. The oldest dinosaur bones ever found were dug up there. Scientists will keep looking. One scientist said, “We still don’t know everything about dinosaurs.”



Scientist David Krause digs for fossils on Madagascar.



Directions: Answer the questions.

1. What did fossil hunters find?
 - A the jaw of an old fish
 - B the teeth of a crocodile
 - C the bones of a flying reptile
 - D the jaw of a small dinosaur

2. What was unusual about the jaw bone?
 - A There was no upper jaw.
 - B It was very big.
 - C The teeth could not chew food.
 - D The sharp teeth looked like hooks.

3. How do these scientists feel about their work?
 - A It is a waste of time to dig for bones.
 - B They can work only in Madagascar.
 - C There is nothing left to find.
 - D There is still more to learn.

4. Summarize the article about the new dinosaur found on Madagascar.

5. Why would someone want to hunt for dinosaur bones? Is this something that you would be interested in doing? Use details from the article to support your answer.

Tip
Look for
information.

Write to a Prompt

The selections describe different ways people can work together. Write about a time when teamwork helped you do a job. Your story should have at least three paragraphs.

Finding Peanut

One day I could not find my cat Peanut. He stays in the house most of the time, but sometimes he goes into the yard.

Peanut was not in the house. He was not in the yard. I looked all over and called his name. Soon my friend Tracy next door heard me. She said, "Can I help?"

"You go that way," I said. "I'll go this way." I did not see Peanut anywhere.

After a while Tracy came around the corner carrying Peanut! "He was in a tree," Tracy said. "A big dog was barking at him."

I thanked Tracy. I might not have found Peanut without her help.



My story has a beginning, a middle, and an ending.

Your Writing Prompt

Some jobs can be done by one person. But for many jobs, like digging up dinosaur bones, teamwork is best. Write about a time you worked with a partner or a team. Tell what you did together. Make sure your story has a beginning, a middle, and an ending. Your story should be two or three paragraphs long.

Writer's Checklist

- Think about your purpose for writing.
- Use details to support your story.
- Be sure your story has a beginning, a middle, and an ending.
- Use your best spelling, grammar, and punctuation.