

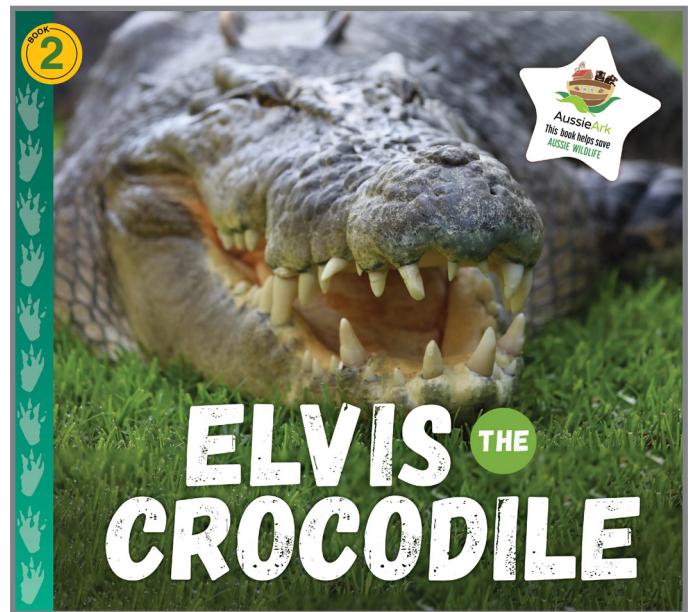
Elvis the Crocodile

CREATORS
AUSSIE ARK

SCIS: 5433698

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Elvis the Crocodile is the story of Australia's crankiest crocodile—Elvis, who lives at the The Australian Reptile Park. Elvis was scaring people in Darwin Harbour so he was sent to live at the Reptile Park and has become its most famous resident. This book tells the story of Elvis's life at the Reptile Park and some of his naughty antics. The book features actual photos of Elvis and his keepers at the Australian Reptile Park. This fun story also aims to educate about Australian native animals and the people that care for them. Included is a saltwater crocodile fact file and a QR code that links to video footage of Elvis as an extra bonus. Part of the proceeds from this book go towards supporting Aussie Ark, a charity that supports endangered Australian wildlife.

ABOUT THE CREATORS

Aussie Ark is a conservation organisation committed to creating a long-term future for Australia's threatened wildlife and their ecosystems. Through the creation of insurance populations, Aussie Ark is breeding endangered wildlife fit for return to the wild. Australia's biodiversity is both rich and unique, but is rapidly disappearing—Aussie Ark is committed to helping prevent further extinctions.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- As a class look closely at the cover and title and discuss what you can learn about a book from its cover. What type of story do you think this will be?
- Discuss conventions of nonfiction (table of contents, glossary, page numbers, title, photographs/pictures, diagrams, and labels) and fiction (setting, plot development, conflict, descriptive language, themes, point of view, characters, characterisation).
- Where do you think this story might be set, and what makes you think this?
- Read the writing on the back cover: What is the purpose of a back cover blurb?
- Have students research The Australian Reptile Park and discuss why it is such an important Australian institution. See <https://www.reptilepark.com.au>.
- The Australian saltwater crocodile is the largest living reptile, and one of the most aggressive and dangerous crocodiles. These incredible animals have been on the planet, unchanged, for over 65 million years. Ask students to prepare a fact file on another reptile.
- Students could also create illustrated posters of their reptiles of choice, aimed at drawing attention to what makes them unique.

- If possible, arrange for students to visit The Australian Reptile Park or an animal conservation group to see firsthand the important work they do.
- Celebrate World Crocodile Day on June 17 each year.

DURING READING

- Chart what students already know about crocodiles. Add additional facts located during subsequent research or as you progress through the text.
- Create a vocabulary wallchart to record new and interesting words as they are encountered in the text or in wider reading.

AFTER READING

- Look closely at different kinds of nonfiction and discuss as a class where this book fits with them.
 - Traditional nonfiction includes writing that gives readers an overview of an entire topic. It is great to use to gauge interest in or to begin researching a topic. Readers who don't need specific details but who want to get a general feel for something will enjoy traditional nonfiction.
 - Expository nonfiction is great for investigating a specific subject. It takes a unique point of view and examines a specialised concept. Readers who want an entertaining look at a specific topic will gravitate towards expository nonfiction.
 - Narrative nonfiction is a true story written in the style of a fictional story.
 - Browsable nonfiction allows young readers to explore topics of interest in a fun way, without the stress of longer chapter books. Based on the popular magazine format of quirky, fun facts that many young readers love.
- If possible, gather a range of information texts on crocodiles and have students examine these, comparing and contrasting them to this text. Discuss how authors have treated the same subject matter differently.
- Ask students to write a fictional narrative about a crocodile. Discuss how their story will differ from the approach used in this book. Highlight that the knowledge they have gained about crocodiles from this book could help them to write a fictional piece.
- Create a class diagram of vertebrate and invertebrate animal classifications, identifying what traits they have in common. Ask students where Elvis would sit in this diagram and why.

Comprehension

- Test knowledge gained from reading the book by asking:
 - What type of animal is a crocodile?
 - Where do crocodiles live?
 - Why do crocodiles like to lie in the sun?
 - What do crocodiles eat?
 - Why do we need to be so careful around crocodiles?
 - Why is it so important to obey signs saying, 'Beware of crocodiles: don't swim here'?
 - Why does Elvis's pool need to be heated?
 - How big is Elvis?
 - How do we know Elvis has won most of his battles with other crocodiles?
 - Why do the keepers at The Australian Reptile Park change where and how Elvis is fed?
 - Why do crocodiles wait and watch their prey?
 - Why do you think Elvis is so popular?
 - What important work is done by The Australian Reptile Park?