

NILE CROCODILE

by MICKEY



Scientific name: *Crocodylus niloticus*

Classification: The Nile crocodile is a Reptile

Size: Male and Female crocodiles are about 6 to 9 feet long.

Food: Baby crocodiles eat insects, fish, frogs and smaller reptiles. Adult crocodiles can eat large animals like the antelope, buffalo and young hippos. They are called maneaters. The adults kill more people than all other crocodilian species combined.

Young: The mother crocodile has about 40 to 50 babies at a time. The babies are called hatchlings. The babies are about 1 foot long when they are born. When they are born the mother carries the hatchlings in her mouth to the water where they protect them for almost one year.

The Nile crocodile was on the endangered species list from 1970 to

1975. It made the endangered list because of over-hunting for their skin and forced habitat changes. They now share other habitats with other species of crocodiles and are very slowly coming back.

The Nile crocodile likes fresh water, swamps, and brackish waters. When they reach the length of approximately 5 feet, the crocodiles will change their habitat by digging a bigger den. They use their feet and snouts for digging.



Facts:

1. The Nile crocodile's heart and brain are more advanced than any other reptile.
2. Adults are known to grow up to 21 feet long and weigh 2,200 pounds.
3. Nile crocodiles hang out in groups.
4. They protect their space during mating season.
5. A female crocodile lays up to 50 eggs and guards them for 3 months.
6. When the babies are ready to hatch, they call to their mother from inside the nest.
7. Nile crocodiles live 70 to 100 years.
8. The eggs are broken by their parents after 3 months by using their mouths if they do not hatch on their own.
9. The Nile crocodile can make 6 different vocal sounds.
10. Baby crocodiles are about 1 foot long at birth.