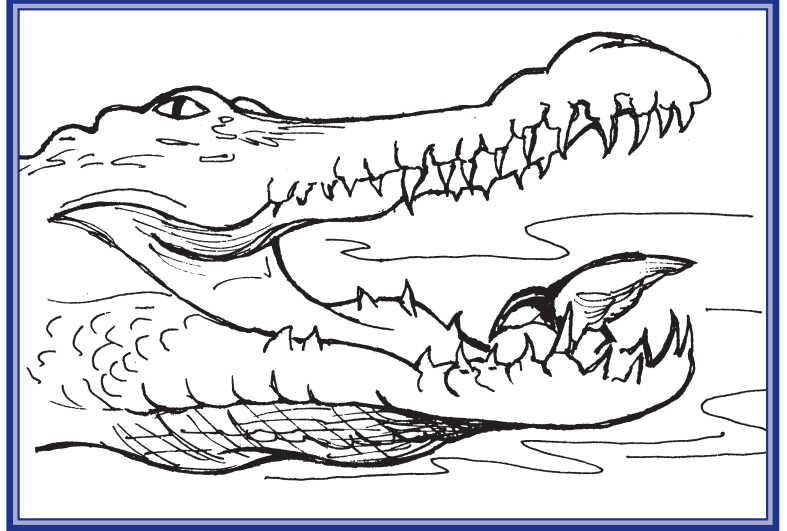


How do crocodiles clean their teeth?

1 If you saw a bird fly into the mouth of a crocodile, you would probably think that the crocodile was going to eat it. After all, most animals would not dare to enter the open jaws of a crocodile. However, the Egyptian plover, or crocodile bird, has a special relationship with the crocodile. This gentle bird acts as the crocodile's personal dentist.



2 A crocodile obviously doesn't brush its teeth or floss after meals. This means that the food that gets stuck in its teeth begins to rot. This can cause the crocodile some pain. To solve the problem, it opens its mouth wide to allow the plover to enter and clean its teeth.

3 Once inside the crocodile's mouth, the plover feeds on the bits of meat lodged between the crocodile's teeth. It also eats the tiny parasites that could make the crocodile sick over time. When the plover is finished eating, it flies out unharmed.

4 The cooperation between the plover and the crocodile helps both animals. The plover gets to enjoy an easy meal without worrying about being attacked. The crocodile gets a much-needed teeth cleaning. Both animals benefit from their unusual partnership and live longer, healthier lives.





Circle the correct answer for questions 1–5.

Write your answer to question 6 on a separate piece of paper.

1. A crocodile gets its teeth clean by _____.
 - A brushing them
 - B opening its jaws to let in air
 - C eating plants instead of meat
 - D letting a bird eat the food between them
2. Which word in paragraph 1 means “connection”?
 - A relationship
 - B personal
 - C special
 - D dare
3. Which paragraph explains how the plover cleans the crocodile’s teeth?
 - A 1
 - B 2
 - C 3
 - D 4
4. What happens when food between a crocodile’s teeth begins to rot?
 - A It makes the crocodile feel pain.
 - B It makes the crocodile hungry.
 - C It makes the crocodile thirsty.
 - D It makes the crocodile lazy.
5. You can conclude from the article that _____.
 - A only the crocodile benefits from its relationship with the plover
 - B only the plover benefits from its relationship with the crocodile
 - C both the plover and the crocodile benefit from their relationship
 - D neither the crocodile nor the plover benefits from their relationship

6. The animals you read about help each other. Think about a time when you helped someone. Tell what you did and how it was helpful.

