

Grade 3 Crocodile Encounter Field Trip TEKS Alignment

TEKS Addressed/Animal Examples*	Presentation Discussion/Additional TEKS Addressed*
<p>3.9A Observe and describe the physical characteristics of environments and how they support populations and communities within an ecosystem</p> <p>1. Nile Crocodile *</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the species viewed at CE, the Nile crocodile, has specific requirements with pond set up (physical characteristics of the environment) that allows success among the population • Discussions about other species viewed at CE and their native habitats (Nile crocodile, African spur thigh tortoise, monitor lizards) include environment and community success • Environmental characteristics and local communities are discussed with animals at CE including the American alligator, local turtles, the Alligator Snapping Turtle, and local snakes
<p>3.9B Identify and describe the flow of energy in a food chain and predict how changes in a food chain affect the ecosystem such as removal of frogs from a pond or bees from a field</p> <p>2. Black Throat Monitor</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These lizards are carnivores and eat small reptiles and rodents; they will eat smaller monitors, snakes, birds, eggs, and more • Changes to the food chain would impact the lizard and other animals it eats • Flow of energy in food chains; multiple examples from different areas of the world • Effects of changes to a food chain discussed with multiple examples
<p>3.9C Describe environmental changes such as floods and droughts where some organisms thrive and others perish or move to new locations</p> <p>3. American Alligators</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of environmental changes and the impact on the American Alligator; personal examples from Crocodile Encounter • Examples from CE species on environmental changes and animals that thrive, those that perish, and those that can move to new locations • Discuss for CE animals about environmental changes that would impact them negatively and how they would respond: drought would cause several species to perish, floods would cause mammals of CE to perish, etc.
<p>3.10A Explore how structures and functions of plants and animals allow them to survive in a particular environment</p> <p>4. Webbed feet modeled with American Alligator; addressed with both lizards</p> <p>5. Alligator Snapping Turtle</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alligator snapping turtle has one of the most interesting structures in the animal kingdom, a built in "fishing lure"; the function of this structure is to catch fish; well camouflaged at the bottom of a lake or river, the turtle opens its mouth and uses this structure to lure prey into its mouth • Webbed feet on this turtle as compared to elephant like feet in the tortoise (tortoises included in show) • Examples with each species at CE; structures that help them survive in their natural habitat dictate their enclosure set up and design • Examples of specific animal structures and their purpose/function for survival
<p>3.10B Explore that some characteristics of organisms are inherited . . . and recognize that some behaviors are learned in response to living in a certain environment such as animals using tools to get food</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the animals mentioned above and those not used as examples here, will be used to discuss inherited traits • American Alligators and Crocodiles will be used to compare inherited traits versus learned behaviors (these animals have multiple learned behaviors in captivity); discussion includes these species responding to tools to get food

* TEKS covered include 3.9ABC and 3.10AB; these TEKS will be covered multiple times with multiple species. The species provided on this document are examples of Crocodile Encounter animals available for field trips and school assemblies; many more species will be viewed and discussed.