English

Level B Test

Name: __________

School: __________
Alligator or Crocodile?

Have you ever wondered about the differences between an alligator and a crocodile? Although some people use the names alligator and crocodile interchangeably to refer to these long leathery reptiles, there are quite a few differences between alligators and crocodiles.

Typically, alligators live in freshwater marshes and lakes. They have wide U-shaped snouts that hide their sharp pointy teeth between a small lower jaw and strong upper jaw. With so much crushing potential, an alligator has stronger jaw strength than a crocodile. They will lie in wait beneath the water, with only two beady eyes exposed. Alligators also appear to be darker in colour and grow between 12 and 14 feet long.

Crocodiles prefer saltwater marshes for a habitat. They have a pointy V-shaped snout. Crocodiles are known for their menacing toothy grins. This is a result of their teeth protruding from their scaly lips when their mouths are closed. Up close, another distinguishing feature can be seen: the scales of a crocodile contain tiny dots. These are sensors that allow them to notice changes in the water and help them detect food. Crocodiles appear to be lighter in colour than alligators and can grow to be slightly larger.

Despite their differences, both alligators and crocodiles can be dangerous to humans. If you see one, it is best to leave it alone. Also, be aware of potential habitats for alligators and crocodiles, as they could be hiding and waiting for their next meal!

1) According to the passage, alligators and crocodiles differ in terms of their
I. habitat
II. colour
III. snout

A. I only
B. I and II only
C. II and III only
D. I, II, and III
2) Which of the following sentences from the passage best explains how alligators catch their food?
   A. “These are sensors that allow them to notice changes in the water and help them detect food.”
   B. “With so much crushing potential, an alligator has stronger jaw strength than a crocodile.”
   C. “They will lie in wait beneath the water, with only two beady eyes exposed.”
   D. “This is a result of their teeth protruding from their scaly lips when their mouths are closed.”

3) Imagine that on your way to the coast, you spy a reptile floating in a watershed. Although its mouth is closed, you can see the reptile’s teeth. Which animal COULD you have seen?
   A. alligator
   B. crocodile
   C. both A and B
   D. neither A nor B

4) Using information in the passage, we can understand that crocodiles most likely grow to be about
   A. 6 to 8 feet long
   B. 8 to 10 feet long
   C. 12 to 14 feet long
   D. 14 to 16 feet long

The Collection

   “Everyone needs a hobby,” my grandpa told me when I was 14. He would know, too. My grandpa seemed to have more hobbies than actual tasks. Most people had hobbies to occupy their free time only. He did not work though, since he was retired. Instead, he occupied all his time with hobbies.
   In the summer, he would golf in the morning and work in his garden in the afternoon. In the autumn, he would build wooden crafts in the garage. In winter, he would read a book a day by his fireplace. And in the spring, he would start growing seeds for his garden or paint a picture while sitting on his porch.
Lacking a Hobby

I never had a hobby. He would try to get me interested in his hobbies. None of them ever appealed to me. I hated being outside, so gardening and golf were not for me. I had no skills at carpentry. Books did not interest me. And neither did painting.

Instead, I searched far and wide to find other hobbies on my own. Internet searches provided me with hundreds of other hobbies. Some people liked playing fantasy football. Others enjoyed bicycling. Some searched for metal objects in the sand. A few were even amateur ghost hunters! None of these hobbies appealed to me though, so I remained without a hobby.

Finding a Hobby

Finally, I found a website devoted to collecting things. Apparently, people all over the world get interested in certain objects and make a hobby of getting and keeping those objects. One person on the site had a collection of radios from the 1920s. Others collected old books, baseball cards, stamps, or even dinosaur bones. I realized that I too had actually had a hobby this whole time!

See, since I was four, I had been amassing a collection of tin soldiers. By the time I had started to look for a hobby, I already had entire armies of Civil War soldiers and at least a hundred soldiers from various other eras. I had a dozen American Revolution troops, ten soldiers from Napoleon’s army, a half dozen Russian soldiers from the Crimean, and a handful of men from about twenty other conflicts.

I had been buying the soldiers any time I saw them. And I had always researched the history of their conflicts. That made me a collector, and it meant I had a hobby.

My grandpa did not even know I had a hobby when he set out to help me find one. Strangely enough, though, he had helped me find the hobby all along. See, he had bought me that first tin soldier when I was four!

1) In the first paragraph, the narrator suggests his grandpa was unique because

A. his grandpa was retired, but most grandpas continue to work
B. his grandpa taught his grandson how to collect objects, instead of how to garden
C. his grandpa had a wide range of hobbies, instead of just one hobby
D. his grandpa’s hobbies occupied all of his time, not just his free time
2) Each of the following is a hobby the narrator’s grandpa enjoyed EXCEPT

A. making crafts
B. gardening
C. ghost hunting
D. golfing

3) As used in paragraph 4, the phrase "appealed to" could best be replaced by

A. interested
B. collected
C. disgusted
D. embarrassed

4) According to the passage, the narrator’s tin soldier collection

A. had been building since he was four
B. was started by his grandpa
C. included more than a hundred soldiers
D. all of the above

5) Which of the following statements best describes this passage?

A. The narrator sets out to do what his grandpa suggests only to find that his grandpa does not care about it.
B. The narrator searches for a hobby only to find he has had one all along.
C. The narrator takes up collecting tin soldiers because his grandpa encourages him to do so.
D. The narrator tries to be like his grandpa but fails to find common interests