

MAY

Printable Reading Passages for 5th Grade

★ REPTILE SIGHTING



As a reptile enthusiast, I led a group of sightseers into Everglades National Park on May 20 to celebrate National Alligator Day. We were on the lookout for some of the largest living reptiles, species that have been around for 70 million years— the alligator and the crocodile. Within the first few moments of entering the park, I saw movement in the marshes. Was it an alligator or a crocodile? The sightseers wanted to know. I am a certified reptile expert, but I needed to collect some clues before I could determine which animal it was.

Everglades National Park is the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States. It is the only habitat in the world where alligators and crocodiles coexist. Crocodiles live in saltwater habitats and alligators live in freshwater marshes and swamps. Both environments are found in this area of Florida. None of us were willing to take the swampy water to determine its identity. So, I analyzed the clues I had about the creature's physical characteristics.

The sightseers had looked closely before I had seen it. Its size was important.

◆ REPTILE SIGHTING



To celebrate National Alligator Day, I led a group of tourists into Everglades National Park on May 20. We were looking for the largest living reptiles, species that have been around for 70 million years— alligators and crocodiles.

♥ REPTILE SIGHTING



It was May 20, National Alligator Day. I led a group of tourists into Everglades National Park. We were looking for the largest living reptiles, those that have been around for 70 million years. We were looking for alligators and crocodiles.

Within the first few moments of entering the park, I saw movement in the marshes. Was it an alligator or a crocodile? The tourists wanted to know. I needed to collect some clues before I could determine which type of reptile we had seen because it could have been either one.

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The reptile had looked visible from a distance. The American alligator can grow up to 14 feet. But an American crocodile can be 22 feet when fully grown.

Well, I saw movement in the marshes. I am a certified reptile expert, but I needed to collect some clues before I could determine which animal it was.

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