Peter Pan

September 11 - 20, 2020

Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 pm
Sundays at 3:00 pm

2nd Street Stage
Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center
120 South 2nd Street

Peter Pan is based on the classic tale by J.M. Barrie. Originally performed in London in 1904, the play was an instant success. With just a sprinkle of pixie dust, the TACT Youth performers will bring the classic characters of Peter Pan, Wendy, Tinkerbell and Captain Hook to life!

About the Thalian Association

Thalian Association Community Theatre is a non-profit, membership organization that's dedicated to enhancing the rich artistic environment of the Cape Fear region.
Tracing its roots back to 1788, the Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded to provide arts education and bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina. Today the Thalian Association Community Theatre produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall, offers a Youth Theatre program and professionally manages the Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center for the City of Wilmington. In 2007, the North Carolina legislature named the Thalian Association Community Theatre the Official Community Theater of North Carolina.

Reading Activity: Learning about Crocodiles

Have you ever wondered why the Crocodile is so obsessed with Captain Hook but never goes after anyone else? It turns out that Crocodiles can go over a year without eating, which is probably why the Crocodile in *Peter Pan* didn't mind waiting!

Read this article from PBS to find out more interesting facts about crocodiles.

Crocodile Secrets of Survival

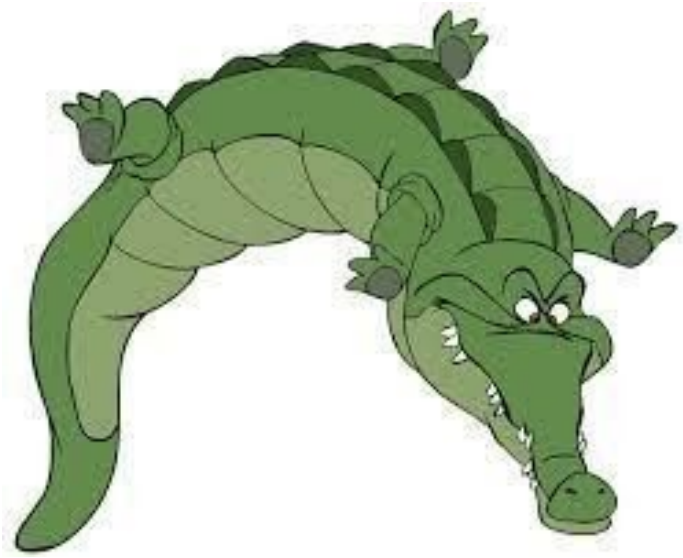
Though the crocodile's ancestry dates back 200 million years, the reptile as we know it today first evolved about 80 million years ago. According to the fossil record, their body plan has changed little since, enabling them to outlive the dinosaurs and become the most advanced of all reptiles and the most successful freshwater predator.

There is no single secret to the crocodile's success. With few natural predators, a permanent armor of bony plates covering most of its body and strong jaw muscles capable of crushing anything from bones to cast iron, the croc is an extremely tough creature. A croc can survive even after serious injuries such as a torn off limbs or tail and has a powerful immune system that helps it live for decades.

One of the keys to its survival is something we might think of as primitive: cold-bloodedness. Like all reptiles, crocs are ectotherms, which means they must gather heat from their environment. Crocodiles have developed behaviors to control their body thermostat: they bask in the sun when cool and seek shade or water when hot.

Ectotherms don't need to eat regularly to warm their bodies, and so they save an enormous amount of energy that can be put to other use or stored for later. A croc's metabolism is so evolved that its body uses and stores nearly the entirety of the food it consumes. This is one reason why larger crocodiles can go for over a year without eating a meal. In extreme situations, crocodiles appear to be able to shut down and live off their own tissue for a long period of time.

But most crocs eat much more often than that. In fact, the average croc eats about 50 full meals a year. When they feast, crocodiles are certainly not picky eaters. It's said that a croc will feed on anything, and they have extraordinarily adaptable diets. Larger crocodiles will eat larger mammals and birds, but they'll also eat fish and mollusks. During difficult times, they will even scavenge for carrion.



In fact, crocs will consume almost everything they encounter. A croc's stomach is the most acidic of all vertebrates, allowing it to digest bones, horns, hooves, or shells. Nothing gets left behind in a crocodile's dinner. In fact these hard objects are used as "gizzard stones" in the croc's stomach to help grind coarse food.

While the crocodile's diet may be undiscriminating, its social interactions are a bit more complicated. Crocs are more social than all other reptiles. Though they primarily lead solitary lives, they resort to group behavior for important activities such as hunting or raising hatchlings.

Crocs don't merely recognize one other; they form long-term relationships. They are hierarchical and communicate by means of vocalization, postures, chemical signals, and even touch.

A crocodile's brain is more complex than that of any other reptile. These powerful predators also have an excellent sense of smell and perception of sound. Crocodiles learn to avoid dangerous situations, and researchers have found that they must modify their techniques when capturing them because it is very hard to catch a crocodile twice using the same trick.

Crocodiles have demonstrated behavioral, physiological and structural adaptations that have allowed them to thrive for hundreds of millions of years, but, unfortunately, surviving human encroachment may be their biggest challenge ever. Through habitat enhancement and environmental education, humans may be able to ensure that these once endangered prehistoric reptiles practice their sophisticated survival skills for years to come.

Test Your Knowledge: Crocodile Facts Quiz

After reading the passage above, take this short quiz to test your knowledge.

1. When did crocodiles first evolve to look like the reptiles we know today?
2. Circle one: Are crocodiles **cold blooded** or **warm blooded?**
3. Crocodiles are _____ which means they gather heat from their environment.
4. How many times per year does the average crocodile eat?
5. What objects do crocodiles have in their stomachs in order to digest their food?

6. A crocodile's _____ is so evolved that its body uses and stores nearly all the food it consumes.
7. Circle one: A crocodile's stomach is the **most acidic** / **least acidic** of all vertebrates.
8. What behaviors have crocodiles developed to regulate their body's thermostat?
9. What do crocodiles eat?
10. A crocodile's _____ is more complex than that of any other reptile.

Did You Know?

- Crocodiles protect their eggs for around three months until they hatch.
- Crocodiles care for their young for about two years until they are big enough to be on their own.
- Mother crocs carry their hatchlings inside their mouths to keep them away from danger.

Science Activity: Observing and Drawing Shadows

In the story of *Peter Pan*, Peter loses his shadow and Wendy must sew it back on for him. Do you think you could lose your shadow? Learn more about shadows with this fun science activity from Eye on the Sky.

Students will:

1. Make accurate drawings of a classmate's shadow.
2. Note position of the Sun in the sky.
3. Be able to identify a connection between the direction of the shadow and location of the Sun.
4. Observe changes in shadows over time.
5. Develop an elementary understanding of the Earth's motion.

Shadow Tracing Activity

1. Begin the discussion of shadows by asking students what they know about shadows. Students may bring up the following points:
    - It is very dangerous to look at the Sun.
    - We NEVER look directly at the Sun!
    - The Sun creates shadows.
    - We all make shadows.
    - If there is sunshine, there will be shadows.
    - Without the Sun, we would not have shadows.
    - If the Sun is shining behind us, we will see our shadows in front of us.
    - A shadow happens when an object (or a person) gets between the Sun and the surface of the Earth.

2. Ask students if they have any questions about shadows. List 3 to 4 of them on the board.

3. Explain that students will be going outside to observe shadows and make drawings of what they see with chalk.

   *Note: If you want to do this activity in the classroom, you can use flashlights to represent the Sun and a piece of paper and a pencil instead of chalk.

4. Remind students again, NEVER to look directly at the Sun, but to concentrate on the shadows.

5. In pairs, students spread out over the sidewalk or blacktop. Distribute chalk.

   *Note: If you are in the classroom, hand each group a flashlight, a piece of paper and a pencil.

6. Ask students to position themselves to make shadows.

   *Note: If you are doing this activity in the classroom, put the piece of paper flat on a table or desk, and hold your hand a few inches above it. Shine the flashlight onto the piece of paper to cast the shadow of your hand onto the paper.

7. Begin tracing by outlining your partner's shoes, then the rest of their shadow.

   *Note: If you are doing this activity in the classroom, trace the shadow of your partner's hand instead! Begin by tracing their wrist, then continue by tracing their fingers.

8. Make sure that each student gets the opportunity to create a shadow and to document the shadow of a classmate.

Art Activity: Peter Pan and TinkerBell Coloring Sheet

Sources: PBS.org, Eyeonthesky.org, Wikipedia.org

NC State Standards – CCR Anchor Standards R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, RL.1, RL.2, RL.3