Name:

Just like superheroes have unique costumes, the American Alligator has a special suit of its own - a tough, scaly skin which is usually black! This amazing creature can grow up to 15 feet long, that's longer than most cars! These alligators have a broad snout and their upper jaw is wider than the lower one, causing the teeth in the lower jaw to fit into the sockets of the upper jaw. Their eyes are



placed high on their heads, so they can see while submerged in water.

Speaking of water, did you know that American Alligators are like the ultimate swimmers? They live in freshwater environments, such as ponds, marshes, wetlands, rivers, and swamps, primarily in the Southeastern United States. These areas provide all the things an alligator needs, like food, fresh water and plenty of sunbathing spots. Also, their nests, which are made of vegetation, sticks, leaves, and mud, can be found in these habitats.

Now, let's talk about the alligator's daily menu. Young alligators love to munch on small fish, insects, snails, crustaceans, and worms. As they grow larger, they expand their diet to larger fish, turtles, various mammals, birds, and other reptiles. They are known as opportunistic feeders because they can eat anything that comes near the water's edge.



While alligators may seem scary, they usually prefer to avoid humans unless their nests are threatened. However, they play an important role in their ecosystem by controlling the population of certain prey species. Alligators and humans have a complex relationship, they are often seen as

dangerous, but they also fascinate us and are protected by conservation laws in many areas. So, the next time you think of an alligator, remember they are not just big, scary creatures, but an important part of our natural world.

American Alligator

		American Alligator	Name:
Solv	e each problem.		
Use	the article to answer th	he question.	
1)	What color is the Amer	rican Alligator's skin?	
	A. Brown	B. Green	
	C. Black	D. White	
2)	In which part of the Un A. Midwestern C. Southwestern	nited States are American Alligators primarily fou B. Southeastern D. Northeastern	nd?
3)	What do young alligato	ors eat?	
	A. Fruits and vegetable	es B. Large fish, turtles, var	ious mammals
	C. Small fish, insects, crustaceans, and we		

4) Where do American Alligators live?

- A. Saltwater environments B. Deserts C. Freshwater environments D. Jungles
- 5) What is the shape of an alligator's snout?
 - A. Broad B. Narrow
 - C. Wider at the bottom D. Pointy

6) How long can an American Alligator grow?

- A. Up to 15 feet long
 - C. Up to 5 feet long
- 7) Are alligators often dangerous to humans? A. Yes, they often attack humans on sight
 - C. Yes, they often provoke humans

8) Where on their heads are American Alligators' eyes located?

- A. High on their heads
- C. At the back of their heads D. At the front of their heads
- 9) What do alligators eat as they grow larger? A. Larger fish, turtles, and mammals
 - C. More insects and worms
- **10)** Why are American Alligators considered opportunistic feeders?
 - A. They only eat during certain seasons B. They can eat anything that comes near the water's edge

B. Bigger alligators

D. Rocks and soil

B. Up to 10 feet long D. Up to 20 feet long

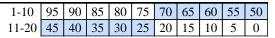
B. No, they prefer to avoid humans unless their nests are threatened

B. At the sides of their heads

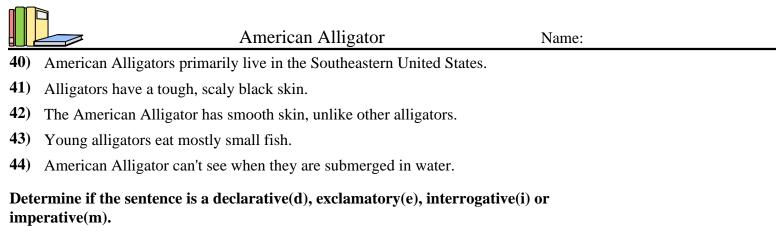
D. Yes, they often hunt humans for food

- C. They steal food from other animals
- D. They travel long distances to find food

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).



	American Alligaton
<u>11</u>	American Alligator Name: "You'll mostly find me in freshwater homes - like marshes, wetlands, rivers, swamps - you
)	name it!"
12)	"I live on a fruit-only diet. Berries are my favorite!"
13)	"I prefer the cold environment of mountainous areas, not the sweltering heat of the marshes."
14)	"I usually stick to dry places like deserts."
15)	"I have skin that is tough and scaly."
16)	"You know what's really cool about me? My eyes are placed high on my head, so I can see even when I'm submerged in the water."
17)	"I find it quite difficult to swim and you won't find me in much water."
18)	"I only dwell in salty sea water."
19)	"You know, my skin is actually quite soft and squishy, not rough or scaly at all."
20)	"Humans? Well, we usually stay away, but if someone threatens my nest, I have to defend it!"
21)	"I definitely enjoy the company of humans and love it when they come near my nest."
22)	"I build nests with sticks, leaves, and mud, just like how you would build a house with bricks and cement."
23)	"My eyes are positioned low on my head, so I can view fish underwater."
Dete	ermine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.
24)	American Alligators primarily live in freshwater environments.
25)	The American Alligator's black scaly skin looks sleek and elegant.
26)	American Alligators' eyes are located high on their heads to be able to see while they are underwater.
27)	It's neat that alligators can see well even when they are underwater.
28)	American Alligators usually have black scaly skin.
29)	It would be scary to see an alligator swimming towards you in a swamp.
30)	Young American Alligators eat a diet consisting of small fish, insects, snails, crustaceans, and worms.
31)	The upper jaw of an American Alligator is wider than the lower one.
32)	The alligator's broad snout and wide upper jaw make it look silly.
33)	The way the American Alligator can grow up to 15 feet long is incredible.
Dete	ermine if the statement is true or false.
34)	American alligators live in saltwater environments.
35)	American alligators only eat small insects.
36)	American alligators will eat anything that comes near the water's edge.
37)	The American Alligator lives in freshwater environments.
38)	American Alligators bodies grow to 30 ft long.
39)	American Alligators can grow up to 15 feet long.



- **45)** American alligators can stay underwater for up to two hours.
- **46)** Can American alligators climb trees?
- **47**) American alligators can live up to 50 years.
- **48)** American alligators are carnivorous and eat fish, turtles, and birds.
- **49**) What do American alligators eat?
- 50) What is the average length of an American alligator?

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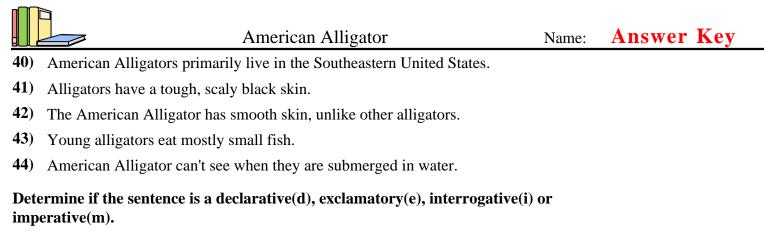
Name: Answer Key

Solve	each	problem.
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BUIV	e each problem.						
	the article to answer the question. What color is the American Alligator's skin?						
	A. Brown	В.	Green				
	C. Black	D.	White				
2)) In which part of the United States are American Alligators primarily found?						
	A. Midwestern	В.	Southeastern				
	C. Southwestern	D.	Northeastern				
3)	What do young alligators eat?						
	A. Fruits and vegetables	В.	Large fish, turtles, various mammals				
	C. Small fish, insects, snails, crustaceans, and worms	D.	Grains and nuts				
4)	Where do American Alligators live?						
	A. Saltwater environments	В.	Deserts				
	C. Freshwater environments	D.	Jungles				
5)	What is the shape of an alligator's snout?						
	A. Broad	B.	Narrow				
	C. Wider at the bottom	D.	Pointy				
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	A. Up to 15 feet long	В.	Up to 10 feet long				
	C. Up to 5 feet long	D.	Up to 20 feet long				
7)	Are alligators often dangerous to humans?						
	A. Yes, they often attack humans on	В.	No, they prefer to avoid humans				
	sight		unless their nests are threatened				
	C. Yes, they often provoke humans	D.	Yes, they often hunt humans for food				
8)	Where on their heads are American Alligator	s' ey	ves located?				
	A. High on their heads	В.	At the sides of their heads				
	C. At the back of their heads	D.	At the front of their heads				
9)	What do alligators eat as they grow larger?						
	A. Larger fish, turtles, and mammals	В.	Bigger alligators				
	C. More insects and worms	D.	Rocks and soil				
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	A. They only eat during certain seasons	В.	They can eat anything that comes				
			near the water's edge				
	C. They steal food from other animals	D.	They travel long distances to find food				

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

11)	American Alligator Name: Answer Key	
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			American Alliga	tor	Name:	Answer Key
1.	С	26.	fact			
2.	В	27.	opinion			
3.	С	28.	fact			
4.	C	29.	opinion			
5.	A	30.	fact			
6.	A	31.	fact			
7.	В	32.	opinion			
8.	A	33.	opinion			
9.	A	34.	false			
10.	В	35.	false			
11.	true	36.	true			
12.	false	37.	true			
13.	false	38.	false			
14.	false	<u> </u>	true			
15.	true	40.	true			
16.	true	41.	true			
17.	false	42.	false			
18.	false	43.	true			
19.	false	44.	false			
20.	true	45.	declarative			
21.	false	46.	interrogative			
22.	true	47.	declarative			
23.	false	48.	declarative			
24.	fact	49.	interrogative			
25.	opinion	50.	interrogative			
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American Alligator

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	e each problem.		
Use	the article to answer the question	on.	
1)	What color is the American Allig	ator's skin? (paragraph 1)	
	A. Brown	B. Green	
	C. Black	D.	
2)	In which part of the United State	s are American Alligators primaril	y found? (paragraph 2)
,	A.	B. Southeastern	
	С.	D.	
3)	What do young alligators eat? (pa	ragraph 3)	
5)	A.	B. Large fish, turtle	s. various mammals
	C. Small fish, insects, snails,	D.	-,
	crustaceans, and worms		
4)	Where do American Alligators la	Ve? (paragraph 2)	
-	A.	B. Deserts	
	C. Freshwater environments	D.	
	XX71 1 1 C 11' .	.0	
5)	What is the shape of an alligator A. Broad	S SNOUL? (paragraph 1) B.	
	C.	в. D.	
	С.	D.	
6)	How long can an American Allig	ator grow? (paragraph 1)	
	A. Up to 15 feet long	B. Up to 10 feet lon	g
	C.	D.	
7)	Are alligators often dangerous to	humans? (paragraph 4)	
-	A. Yes, they often attack human		o avoid humans
	sight	unless their nests	are threatened
	С.	D.	
8)	Where on their heads are Americ	an Alligators' eyes located? (paragra	ph 1)
,	A. High on their heads	B.	·
	C.	D.	
9)	What do alligators eat as they gr	w larger? (noncomp 2)	
)	A. Larger fish, turtles, and mar	0	
	C.	D.	
10)		nsidered opportunistic feeders? (par	
	A.	B. They can eat any near the water's e	-
	C.	D.	
	<i></i>	D.	

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American Alligator

- 11) "You'll mostly find me in freshwater homes like marshes, wetlands, rivers, swamps you name it!" (paragraph 2)
- 12) "I live on a fruit-only diet. Berries are my favorite!" (paragraph 3)