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Chinese Alligator

Alligator sinensis



Peoria Zoo Exhibit Conservation Center Pond

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/exhibits.html>

Habitat: Ponds, rivers, lakes, streams, swamps, and marshes

Range: Eastern China, found in a small area in the Yangtze River basin

Activity Cycle: Nocturnal– active at night

Size: Males can reach lengths of 5 feet, females reach lengths of 4.5 feet.
Weigh between 50-90 pounds

Social Structure: Solitary
Females will build nests out of decaying vegetation and lay 10-40 eggs. She will help the young hatch and carry the babies from the nest to the water.

Distinguishing Features: The Chinese alligator is generally dark green to black in color.

Teeth are blunt, allowing them to crush shelled animals. Similar to its cousin, the American Alligator, their eyes and nostrils are located on the top of their head so they can submerge in the water and still be able to see and breathe.

Diet: Small invertebrates such as snails and mussels, as well as fish, frogs, and rats

Life Span: Average around 50 years

Did you know?

There are fewer than 130 Chinese Alligators estimated left in the world.