

LEARN ABOUT

Saltwater crocodiles

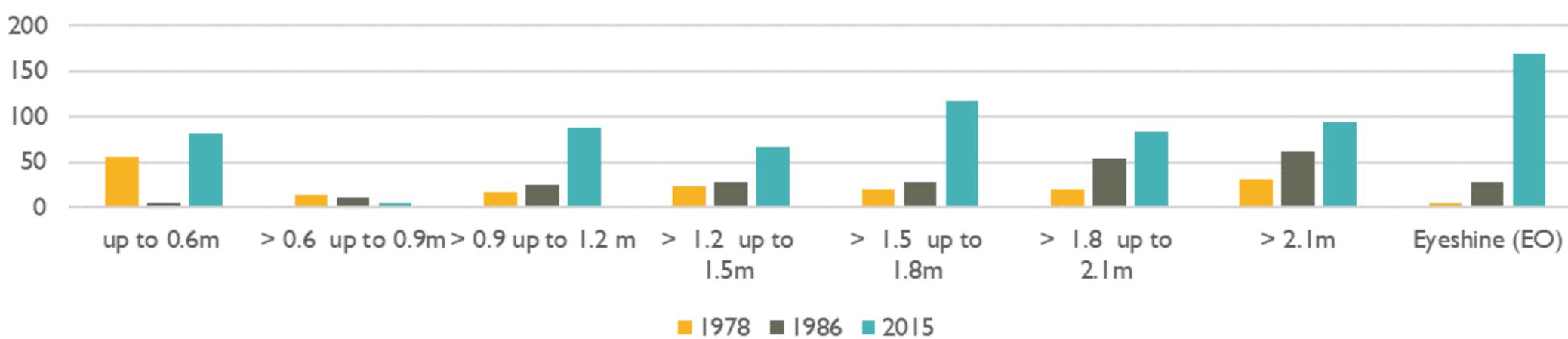


Before 1970, saltwater crocodiles in Australia were hunted. Crocodile numbers in the wild fell dramatically.

Since 1970, the saltwater crocodile has been protected in Australia.

Q1. This graph shows how a population of crocs has changed over time.

Crocodiles by size, sighted in Prince Regent River system during three studies (1978, 1985 and 2015)



The graph shows that this croc population:

- is in trouble - the number of crocs is getting smaller
- ▲ has not changed - the number of crocs is the same
- is recovering - the number of crocs is getting bigger

When scientists survey crocs often only the crocodile's head is visible.

Scientists then estimate the length of a croc based on the size of its head.

They use the ratio of 1:8.

That means the croc length is 8 times the head length.

Q2. A croc with a head of 40 cm would have an estimated length of:

- 9 metres
- ▲ 3.2 metres
- 48 cm



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When surveying the croc population, scientists record a croc's position using latitude and longitude.

Here is the GPS data for one croc: latitude [-15.3136](#) longitude [125.0848](#).

Use a smartphone, put both points, separated by a comma, into a Google search engine and it will locate the point on Google maps. Zoom out.

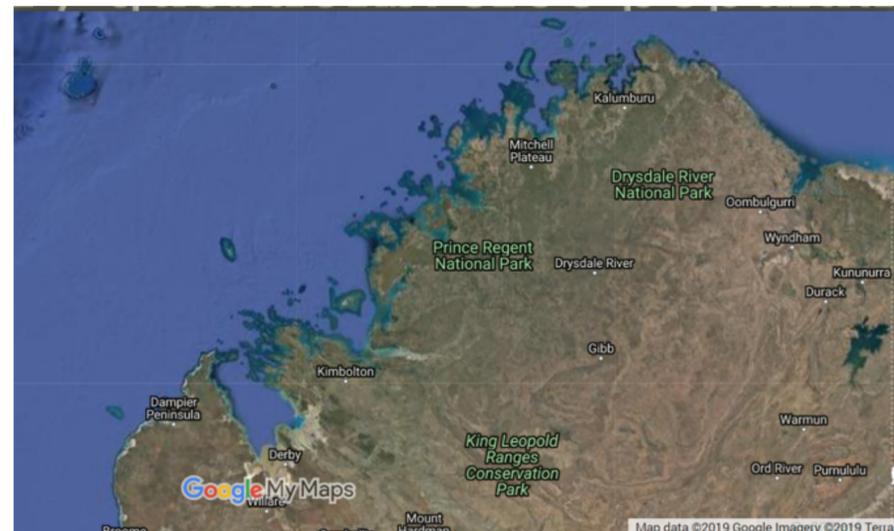
Where is it?

Q3. The croc was sighted:

■ near St Andrew Island, WA

▲ near Indian Island, NT

● in Norman River, Qld



Q4. What is the largest crocodile sighted in this survey?

■ 14 metres

▲ 4.27 metres

● 1.52 metres

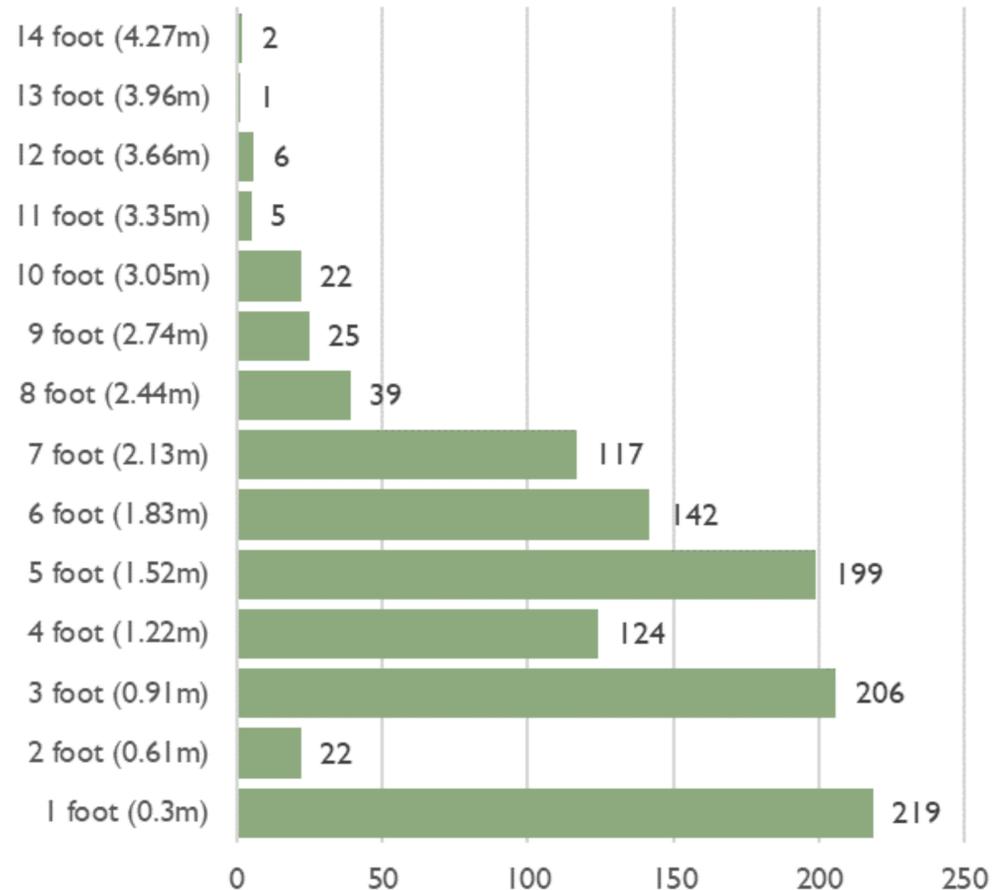
Step out the size to get a sense of how big the croc would be.

If you like these activities ask your teacher to view the lesson.

Visit the DT-Hub www.dthub.edu.au

Search for 'crocodiles'

Number of crocodiles sighted by length



Answers, Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4