

# LET'S DRAW : Awesome Alligators!



American alligators have an “armored” body with a muscular, flat tail. The skin on their backs is imbedded with bony plates called “skutes.” They have short legs with five toes on the front feet and four toes on the back feet. Alligators have a long, rounded snout with nostrils facing up so they can breathe when most of their body is underwater. Alligators have 74 to 80 teeth. As the teeth wear down they are replaced. An alligator can go through about 3,000 teeth in a lifetime!

Take a few minutes to study the animal before starting your sketch. If it moves it will often come back to a similar position. You may not see the whole body. Draw what you see. Take pictures if you have a camera.



Draw a curved line for the spine. This helps show direction and movement of the body. Draw lines to show where the head, eyes, front and hind legs will go.

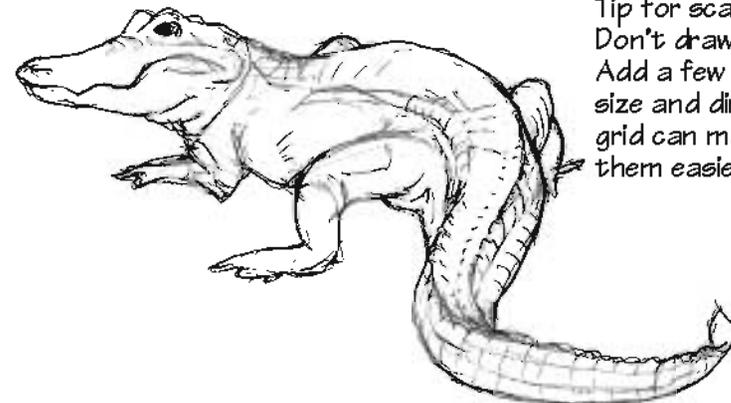
Draw ovals for the head, snout, body, legs and tail. Make a mark where the eyes will go.



Connect the ovals with outside lines to show the body. Draw lines to indicate the eyes, mouth, nose and toes.



Add some detail. You can erase the lines you don't need. Reference and guide books are handy for confirming detail.



Tip for scales:  
Don't draw every scale!  
Add a few scales to show size and direction. Using a grid can make drawing them easier.



 Let Wild be Wild by leaving animals in their natural habitat. Help keep the water clean and protect these areas so they can remain safe places for animals.

