



BUTTERFLY creek



THE BABY ALLIGATORS AT BUTTERFLY CREEK

When students visit Butterfly Creek, they will be totally captivated with the 5 baby American alligators. Butterfly Creek imported these alligators from Australia in December 2008 when they were approximately 1 to 2 years old. Over many years they will continue to grow and in time they will be moved to larger enclosures.

While students often think of them as baby salt water crocodiles, there are many important differences between the two species – as they will find out on their visit to Butterfly Creek. These include habitat, water temperature tolerance, and size.

A GREAT ALL WEATHER VENUE

BUTTERFLY CREEK EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Butterfly Creek provides teachers with highly motivational opportunities for teaching and learning across the curriculum with a particular emphasis on Science – the living world strand.

EDUCATIONAL ENCOUNTERS

PRE VISIT ACTIVITIES – TUNING IN TO ALLIGATORS

- Find out what students currently know about alligators, **eg** are they different from salt water crocodiles? Where in the world do we find alligators?
- Tell students that the alligators they will see on their visit to Butterfly Creek are called American alligators and are found mostly in the South Eastern states of the USA. Have students locate the states of Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Georgia where the majority of alligators are found.

CONDUCTING ALLIGATOR WEB RESEARCH

- Have students conduct web research at the following sites to discover the fascinating alligator facts to enhance their visit to Butterfly Creek.
 - www.npca.org/marine_and_coastal/marine_wildlife/alligator.html
 - <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/> (type alligator into the Search Box)
 - www.learnanimals.com/american-alligator/
 - www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/Alligator.shtml
- how far back in history can alligators be traced?
- why were they once threatened species?
- how long do alligators live in the wild and in captivity?
- how can we tell the difference between alligators and crocodiles?
- write an ID sheet that explains the differences between the two
- how large on average are fully grown alligators and how much do they weigh?
- in what places do alligators live and can they live in fresh water?
- what do alligators eat and how do they often eat their prey?
- what is a 'gator hole' and why do alligators make them?
- how do they protect themselves when the water level drops?
 - how do alligators propel themselves in water?
 - describe the skin on the back of the alligator.

What would it feel like?

- Type in Oil Spill Alligator into Google search to find out how alligators are being affected by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Educational Experience Includes:

- Experience Australasia's Premier Tropical Butterfly House with over 700 brilliantly coloured, free flying butterflies, lush vegetation, waterfalls, fish, birds and reptiles.
- Get up close with your favourite farm animals at the interactive Buttermilk Farm.
- Take an environmental walk around our specially constructed working wetland.
- Be captivated by the Aquaria – New Zealand's largest coral reef tank and our huge tropical fresh water aquarium.
- Enjoy the Green Fingers -Bugs About exhibit of New Zealand's largest insect – the giant weta and be fascinated by the extensive collection of live tarantula and other fascinating insects.
- Take a train ride on the Red Admiral Express Train or the Tractor Hay Ride.
- Your class will be absolutely spellbound with the Giant Saltwater Crocs and baby Alligators.
- Educational opportunities abound including
 - Technology in Action (solar heating)
 - Environmental Education (working wetlands)
 - Stimulus for the creative arts
 - Cultural dynamics (animals and people interacting)
- Enjoy a magical Sleep-Over
- Our education team can provide:
 - A Focused Visit - Class Talks
 - Education Modules

EDUCATIONAL PACKS AVAILABLE – BOOK TODAY

For bookings and further information contact:
educationtours@butterflycreek.co.nz

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