



Auntie Gill Says

“Let’s look at.....the Nile crocodile”

The Nile crocodile swims in the fresh waters of the Nile and is one of the most dangerous crocodiles in the world.

This carnivorous reptile lives on average for 45 years, grows to around 16 foot long and weighs 500 pounds.

They eat mainly fish, but will attack zebras, small hippos, porcupines, birds and other crocodiles. 100s of humans are attacked each year.

When the Nile crocodile lays eggs, the parents fiercely guard the nest until the eggs are hatched. This is not a typical trait for reptiles that usually lay eggs as normally they would be laid and then left to hatch and survive on their own. Often the Nile crocodile will roll the eggs gently in their mouths to help the eggs hatch. A baby crocodile is called a hatchling.

The Nile crocodile is not an endangered species despite some regional declines or extinctions.

Why don’t you see if you can find some pictures of the Nile crocodile and draw one?

Look at their heavily armoured skin. Try and draw their scale markings.

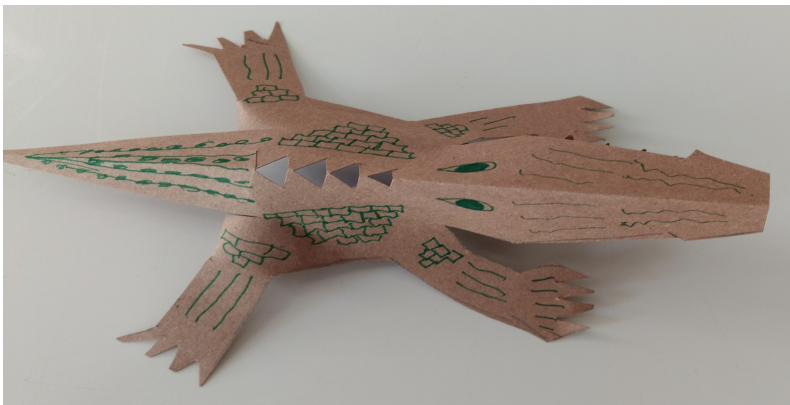
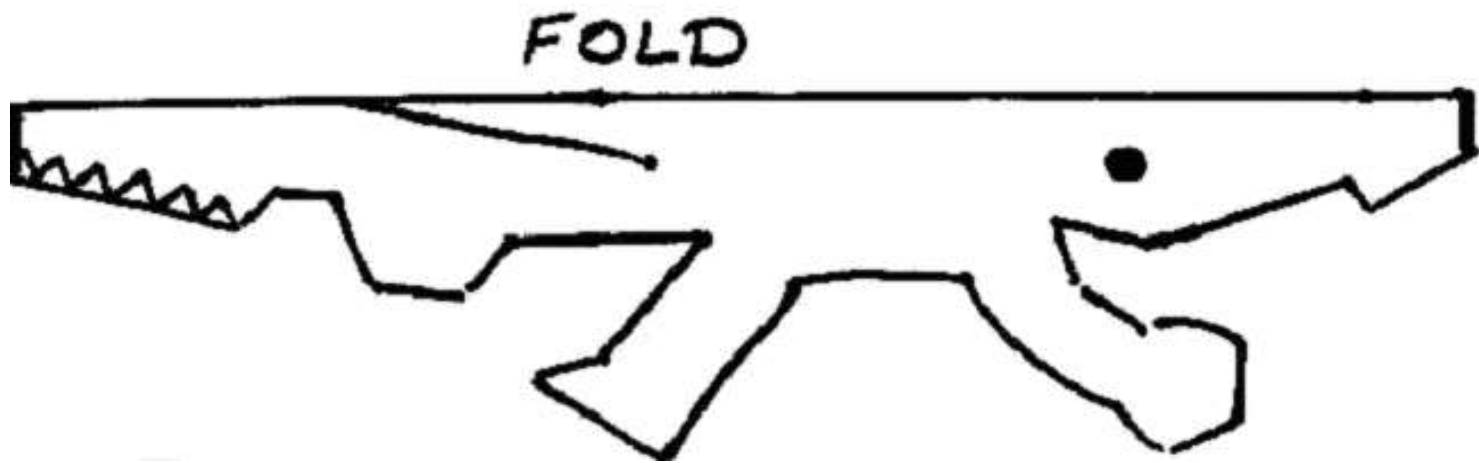
Let’s make a crocodile swimming along the River Nile

For each crocodile, fold half a piece of A4 paper in half and draw around the template. A grown up may have to cut out the shape for you but when you open it up you will see it starts to look like a crocodile.

The opposite end to the head is the crocodile’s lower jaw. So if you bend the shape to go underneath the tail, you will see the lower jaw appear. The angled shapes either side of the body are the tummy flaps, which, when stuck on the underside of the crocodile make it keep its shape. Cut indents into the feet to create claws.

You will need to see how the crocodile forms to work out how to draw his scale markings and eyes before sticking into position. You can cut out shapes along his back for extra effect.

An idea from Auntie Gill gill@gillmcgregor.com



Template is from a Michael Grater design © 1963

To finish the River Nile scene

With a cereal box, cut to create a long rectangular shape, cut again to create an interesting curved base and paint to show land and desert areas.

Look through your collection of saved empty boxes and labels and see if you can find blue packaging. Cut into a long river shape and stick on to the cardboard base to represent the Nile travelling through the land and desert. Add a few water channels which were dug out by the Ancient Egyptians to allow the water from the Nile to irrigate the farming land. Cut out more, narrow puddle shapes and use the raising technique by taping rolled card underneath the shape before sticking to the river to achieve different height levels for interest.

I found a green serviette and tore it into strips and screwed up the paper to make grass and stuck it to the river's edge. The tall grass was cut out of a used cardboard green coloured box. Make sure you have a flat bottom fold so you can stick the clumps of "grass" along the river's edge.

The Pyramid was made out of cardboard egg boxes. 3 sets of 3 were attached to a cardboard base, then 2 sets of 2 were stacked and stuck centrally on top and then the one egg holder was stuck centrally on the top. Paint to show a whitish, yellow colour as if the sun was reflecting on the pyramid.

