

How do crocodiles breathe underwater?

Crocodiles have an amazing ability to breathe and hunt underwater at the same time. By closing a flap of skin at the back of their throats they prevent water from flowing into their lungs. They hold air in their lungs until they resurface. They are able to keep their mouths open to grab prey underwater, although they usually move to land to swallow it. They also have flaps that can be closed over the nostril and ear openings.



TURTLES

Aquatic turtles breathe through their lungs. The Florida softshell (right) has to surface and use its snout to fill its lungs with oxygen above water. Some turtles manage to stay underwater for weeks, living on very low oxygen levels.

Florida softshell turtle
(*Apalone ferox*)

Saltwater crocodile
(*Crocodylus porosus*)

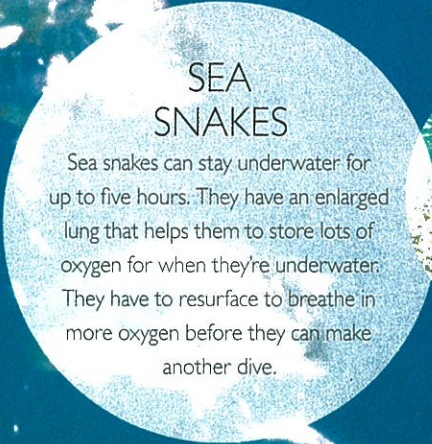




FROGS

Frogs can breathe through their skin when they're in the water. Their skin absorbs oxygen from the water around them. Find out more about their amazing skin on pages 12-13.

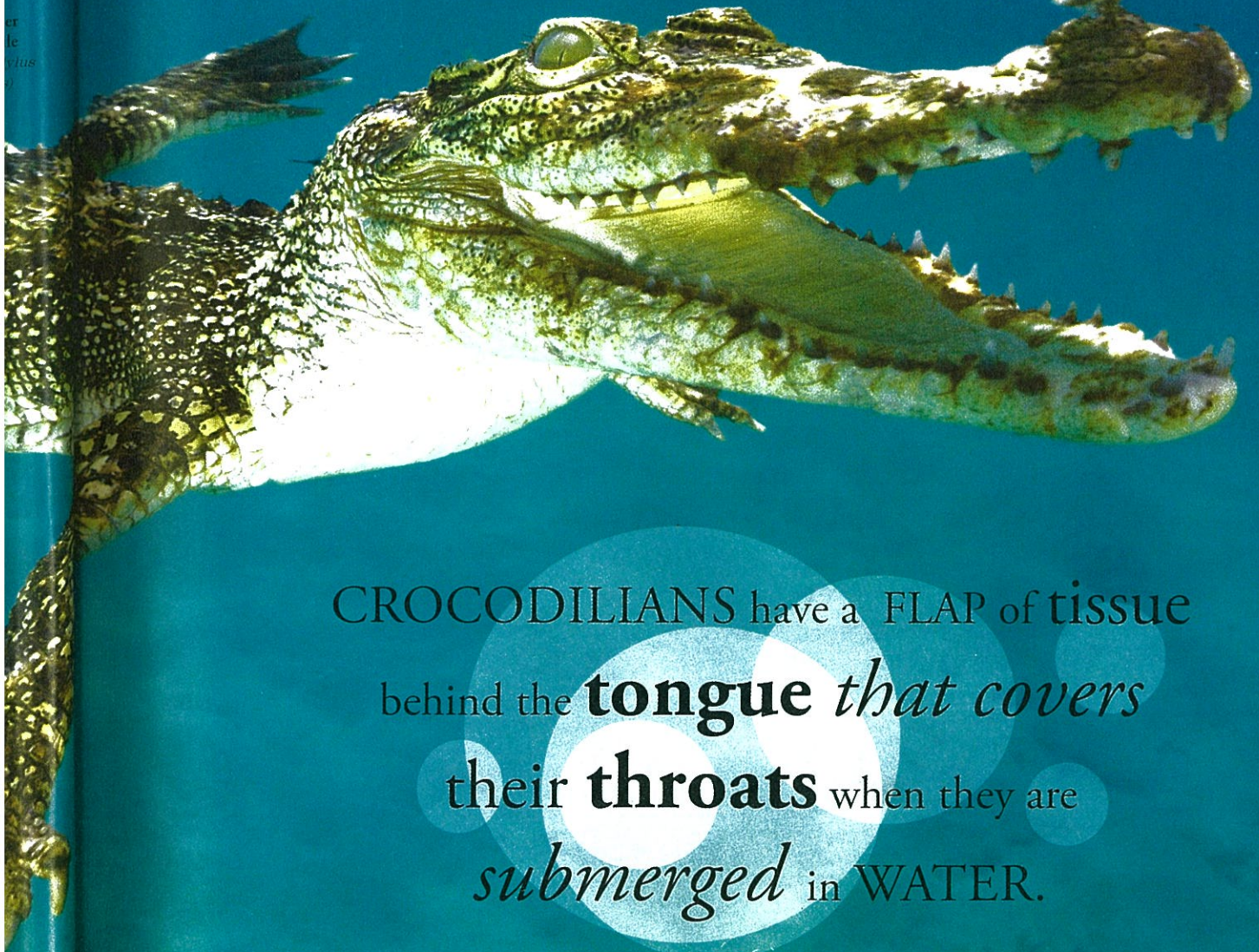
Okinawa frog
(*Rana sp.*)



SEA SNAKES

Sea snakes can stay underwater for up to five hours. They have an enlarged lung that helps them to store lots of oxygen for when they're underwater. They have to resurface to breathe in more oxygen before they can make another dive.

Banded sea snake
(*Laticauda colubrina*)



CROCODILIANS have a FLAP of tissue behind the **tongue** *that covers* their **throats** when they are *submerged* in WATER.

a membrane that acts as a **transparent shield.**