

Animals We Love:

INDIAN GHARIALS

Recommended for preschoolers

Let's learn more about Indian gharials:

- The Indian gharial is a crocodylian. This large reptile can grow to a length of 6 metres.
- Males and females look very different. Mature males have a bulbous growth on the tip of their snout. The Indian gharial gets its name from this bulbous growth which resembles an earthenware pot or 'ghara' in Hindi.
- Males use their 'ghara' to make sounds or blow bubbles, probably to attract females during the breeding season.
- The Indian gharial feeds mainly on fish, moving its long narrow snout side to side to snap prey with its sharp teeth. It uses sensory cells in its snout to detect vibrations made by prey.
- In the wild, Indian gharials are threatened by overhunting and egg collection. They also die from being trapped in fishing nets. Sand mining is also threatening their survival as they need sand banks to bask and to nest.



Use the See-Think-Wonder Thinking Routine* to start a conversation with your child

*Adapted from Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education

SEE

- Name the body parts of the Indian gharial. Which body parts are above water?
- The gharial derived its name from the word 'ghara' which means 'pot' in Hindi. Which part of the gharial looks like a small pot?
- Watch the video and observe the Indian gharial's teeth. How are its teeth different from ours?

THINK

- How do you think the Indian gharial might move its body parts to swim? How do you move your body parts to swim?
- Why do you think the Indian gharial keeps its eyes and snout above water when resting?

WONDER

- I wonder how the Indian gharial breathes.

Activity Time!

Make a Snout

- Watch the [video](#) and [visit River Wonders website on Indian gharials](#). Observe the photographs, focusing on the Indian gharial's snout (ghara) and other details including its teeth and texture.
- Use old magazines, paper cartons and other unwanted materials to create an Indian gharial's snout. Remember to add details to your creation. Wear your 'snout' as a mask.



Upload your creations and tag us @wrs.ig along with the hashtag #RiverWonders and #PlaytimeSZG



Gharial Race

- Get your family member(s) to join you for this activity. Each to draw and colour a mini gharial on a small card that fits the underside of a bottle cap.
- On any flat surface, mark two points to represent the start and end of a race. Use a straw to blow and race your mini gharial to the finishing line.

Bonus Challenge: Have the race over a basin of water.

Try out this activity when you visit us!



How Long Is The Gharial?



2 or more players



Bronze gharial statue and loose parts



STEP 1: Find the bronze gharial statue near the Indian gharial exhibit.

STEP 2: How long is the bronze gharial? Each person to take turns and use your hands to measure the gharial from snout to tail. How many hands long is the gharial? Compare it with other family members. Try it again with your feet.

STEP 3: What else can you use to measure the gharial?
Hint: Use your belongings (e.g. water bottle)!



Take a photo of you measuring the bronze gharial statue and upload on Instagram. Tag us @wrs.ig along with the hashtag #RiverWonders and #PlaytimeSZG.