



Alligator Accordion

Make your own miniature alligator with an accordion-like middle section. As an animal with albinism, the Academy's alligator, Claude, does not have the dark pigments in his skin that would normally allow him to camouflage in swampy habitats.

Materials

Alligator printout (page 2)
Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
Scissors
Tape and/or glue
Long strip of paper, about 6" long and 1" wide
Optional: Two craft sticks (popsicle sticks, chopsticks, or straws)



Directions

1. **Print** out the alligator head and tail on the second page.
2. **Color** the alligator pieces. Alligators can be grey, brown, olive, or nearly black. If you'd like to make an albino alligator, like Claude, then leave it white and color the eyes pink or red.
3. **Cut** out both alligator pieces.
4. **Fold** a strip of paper about every half inch, alternating between folding it backward and forward. By folding it back and forth along the length, you will make an accordion shape.
5. **Tape or glue** each end of the accordion to connect the two alligator pieces.
6. **Optional:** Tape or glue a craft stick to each end of the alligator to turn it into a puppet. You can also use it as a shadow puppet by holding it in front of a flashlight in a dark room.

