

Who to Believe?

This NOVA program includes many facts about how crocodiles live. But this program is just one of many sources from which you can get information about these complex creatures. In this activity, you will look at many different sources and then evaluate the information you gather.



1 First make a chart on a separate sheet of paper that has the categories of the chart below. Next, fill in your group's assigned topic—either the anatomy and physiology of crocodiles or their social behaviors.

2 As you watch, take notes in the NOVA program column about facts that relate to your topic.

3 Research other sources to see whether they contain information that agrees or differs from the facts you collected from the NOVA program.

4 Once you have completed your research, consider all of your facts, choose which source or sources you most believe for each fact, and give your reasons for why you believe your source(s). In evaluating your sources, you may want to consider the following:

- How objective is the source given the topic you are considering?
- How credible is the source?
- When were the facts reported?
- Where did the fact originate? (For example: quote from scientist, text in article or narration in program, or paper authored by scientist.)

Assigned Topic: _____

| | Source 1: NOVA program | Source 2: reference books | Source 3: newspaper and magazine articles | Source 4: scientist or science journal article | Source 5: Internet | Which source(s) do you most believe and why? |
|--------|--|------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|--|
| Fact 1 | Example: Crocodiles can live in sea water | | | | | |
| Fact 2 | | | | | | |
| Fact 3 | | | | | | |
| Fact 4 | | | | | | |
| Fact 5 | | | | | | |