



TEACHER'S NOTES

TITLE: Tick Tock Tick Tock What's Up Croc?

AUTHOR: Kim Michelle Toft

ILLUSTRATOR: Kim Michelle Toft

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Tick Tock Tick Tock What's Up Croc? is a stunning visual journey through time looking at a salt water crocodile's life over a 24 hour period. Supported by lyrical prose style text, the reader meanders with the crocodile up the river to hunt, rest, help its babies hatch and get to safety, and finally finding another mate.

The book cleverly parallels the concept of time with the behaviour and ultimate survival of the saltwater crocodile. It is both a tribute and celebration of this remarkable reptile, truly the last of the mighty dinosaurs.

Each detailed illustration in the book is hand painted onto silk.

About the Book

The cover immediately draws the reader in. The sumptuous blend of colours and the haunting eye of the saltwater crocodile invites the reader to answer the question, "*What's Up Croc?*"

Another explosion of colour hits you when you open the book to the end pages. The vibrant purples and greens of the waterlilies floating against an electric blue/green background contrasts dramatically with the "moody" colours of the cover.

The title page then plunges back into the deep greens to blacks with only a spotlight on a small patch of lilies, suggesting a search for the saltwater crocodile under the water in the dead of night.

There is a subliminal line of text "*tick tock tick tock tick tock tick tock.....*" on every page symbolising that time is always ticking, always moving forward. Some creatures have been more successful surviving time than others. The saltwater

crocodile being one of the most successful, living on the planet for more than 200 million years!

The main text is beautiful in its simplicity and has a haunting rhythm. It is written as a poem. The poem features on the wall chart

Each double page deals with a certain aspect of a saltwater crocodile's life and the stunning hand painted silk illustrations capture the grandeur of this prehistoric predator.

Each double page is broken into

- Main Concepts
- Illustration
- Questions / Discussion
- Suggested Activity

Down the left margin the educational applicability is listed.

Midnight Strikes...

Main Concepts

MATHS
SCIENCE

- TIME
- Introduction to SALTWATER CROCODILE.

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- The full moon reflecting over the water shows it's night time – "midnight".
- The tail of the croc leads the reader onto the next page
- Interesting corals and fish featured suggesting the croc is coming in from the sea.

Questions / Discussion

MATHS
SCIENCE

- How many times would the clock chime at midnight?
- What creature could this tail belong to?
- What did the crocodile just swim past?

Suggested Activity

MUSIC
LANGUAGE

- Divide the class into 3 groups, one group could whisper "tick tock tick tock tick tock tick tock....." continuously, the second group reads "Midnight Strikes" and then the third group either say 12 "dongs" or use musical instruments to count the 12 out. There will need to be a conductor to keep the groups in time and unison. Continue for the whole book with 12 "dongs" at the end.

and a remarkable reptile,

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- REPTILES, in particular the saltwater crocodile.

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- The rest of the crocodile's body is revealed and takes the reader further down the river and into the book.
- Crabs appear on mangrove flats which is also moving the reader further down the river.

Questions / Discussion

SCIENCE

- What is this remarkable reptile?
- Why do you think the saltwater crocodile is so remarkable?
- What is a reptile and what are some other reptiles?
- What are some other words that mean "remarkable"?

LANGUAGE

Suggested Activity

SCIENCE

- On a sheet have a selection of animals ie. reptiles, mammals, insects, amphibians and birds and circle or colour the reptiles. Then discuss what the other animals are.
Name each animal and write which animal group they belong to.

from a time long gone by,

Main Concepts

HISTORY

- **DINOSAURS** and prehistoric times.

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- A giant prehistoric crocodile, Sarosuchus battles a Baryonyx from the Jurassic Period.
- Very different vegetation.

Questions t/ Discussion

HISTORY

- How long ago do you think crocodiles have been on the planet?
- What else lived that long ago?
- How long ago was the Jurassic Period?

Suggested Activity

HISTORY

- Find out more about the Baryonyx dinosaur and then find two more dinosaurs who lived in the Jurassic period.

MATH

- Measure out 7 metres, the total length of a fully grown crocodile today, then measure out 15 metres, that of a crocodile that lived in the Jurassic period. Compare the size and imagine meeting a crocodile that size.

ENGLISH

- Write an interesting story in the Jurassic period using the Sarocuchus (super-croc) and two other dinosaurs of that period

***meanders ever so slowly up the lazy river
in search of a tasty bite!***

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- **A CROCODILES MOVEMENTS AND STYLE**

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- A giant crocodile meanders towards the reader.
- The unsuspecting birds could be its next meal!
- Vegetation suggests being further up the river
- The rising sun is set against the dawn sky also moving us forward in time.

Questions /Discussion

GEOGRAPHY

- Where in the world do we find saltwater crocodiles?
- Name two places in Australia where people can go and safely see crocodiles in their natural habitat?
- What safety measures do we need to remember when near crocodile infested waters?
- What do these places have in common?
- What are the other animals in the picture?
- What time of day do you think it is?

SCIENCE

Suggested Activity

GEOGRAPHY

- Using a globe locate the places where crocodiles are found. Then on an activity sheet with a map of the world, children shade in the areas where crocodiles are found and write in the names of the lines of longitude.

Barra or bird her favourite feast

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- **DIET AND HUNTING**

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- Depicts two crocodiles using different hunting styles to capture two different types of prey – a barramundi and a galah.

Questions / Discussion

SCIENCE

- What is the croc trying to catch?
- How does the hunting style differ?
- What else does the croc eat?

- What hunts crocodiles?

Suggested Activities

SCIENCE
ART

- Research how a crocodile captures, stores and digests its food. Then draw a cartoon strip showing the three different stages.

Belly full and floating free

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- **DIGESTION AND FEEDING**

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- A view from below the croc and looking up at its full belly.
- The crocodile floating freely with only the top of its head breaking the surface of the water.

Questions /Discussion

SCIENCE

- Where would you be sitting if you got this view of the crocodile?
- What do you think the croc has eaten and how is it floating after eating?
- What part of the crocodile's body is above water?
- What is the opposite to "free" and "float"?

LANGUAGE

Suggested Activity

SCIENCE

- In groups, the children have a selection of objects and a container of water, they write in two columns which float and which sink.

she slithers sluggishly to the shore, living statues basking in the midday sun

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- Like stone statues, four saltwater crocodiles group together under blue skies and the midday sun.
- A couple of crocodiles with mouths opened to cool down.

Questions /Discussion

MATHS
SCIENCE

- How many crocodiles are gathered together?
- Why are the mouths open on two of the crocodiles?
- Why do you think they are called "living statues"?
- What do you do at midday?

Suggested Activity

DRAMA

- Get the students to *slither sluggishly* across the floor and then stay still without moving at all for one minute – explain that crocodiles don't move for many hours.

Newborn cries sound the alert from a nest not far away.

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- INCUBATION

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- A worried crocodile rears her head in response to the cries from her babies.
- More interesting birds with a few being startled by her reaction and a heron is too busy preying on a frog.

Questions / Discussion

SCIENCE

- What is the croc doing?
- Does she look worried?
- What other animals are in the picture and what are they doing?
- Do you think her nest is in a tree like a birds nest? Why not?

Suggested Activity

SCIENCE
ART

- Find out the names of other birds that might live in the tropics with the saltwater crocodile. Draw and colour a picture of two of the birds and stick on either side of a piece of white cardboard, cut into the shape of a cloud and hang from the ceiling or in the windows.

She scurries quickly to her mound, buried treasure stirs inside.

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- NEST BUILDING AND PROTECTION

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- A mother crocodile runs to her nest built out of vegetation.
- The nest is above the water line under some trees.

Questions / Discussion

LANGUAGE

- What does "scurry" mean?

SCIENCE

- What do you think the buried treasure is?
- Has she got there in time or has one of her eggs been stolen?

- Where is her nest/mound built?

Suggested Activity

DRAMA

- In contrast to “*slithering sluggishly*” get the children to “*scurry quickly*”.

Her babies hatch one by one and some need help from Mum!

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- HATCHING

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- A mass of baby crocodiles are hatching from their eggs at different stages.
- The huge mouth of the mother croc gently places an egg down.
- Her eye shows compassion towards her hatchlings.

Questions / Discussion

MATHS
SCIENCE

- How many babies can you count?
- What is the mother croc doing?
- Have all the eggs hatched?

Suggested Activity

DRAMA

- Children curl up in a tight ball as if inside an egg and then slowly tap tap the side of the shell with their eye tooth on the end of their noses, slowly uncurling and breaking out of their shells and crawling over the top of each other.

Ferry rides to a weedy home lovingly carried to the safety zone.

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- HATCHLINGS BEHAVIOUR

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- A mother crocodile carrying three hatchlings on her head and one in her mouth arrives at a weedy crèche for her newborn.
- One hatchling is swimming, another has caught an insect while a butterfly gets a ride.
- A frog eyes off a bug and a crab looks on.
- The sky has changed to twilight colours suggesting time progression.

Questions / Discussion

MATHS

- How many hatchlings are getting a ride with Mum?
- What are the other hatchlings doing?

SCIENCE

- What time of day do you think it is?
- Why do you think she puts them among the reeds?

Suggested Activity

ART

- Write a list or draw a picture of things a baby crocodile might eat. Place under a heading "CROCODILE HATCHLINGS DIET".

***And when all are hidden and stashed away,
she'll meander ever so slowly down the lazy river,***

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- PATERNAL INSTINCT

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- The crocodile is nearly all submerged now swimming down the lazy river.

Questions / Discussion

SCIENCE

- What does the croc look like submerged under the water?
- Is she swimming up or down the river?
- Where do you think she is going?

Suggested Activity

SCIENCE
ART

- The children find an animal that uses camouflage to help protect itself then draw that animal in a setting where it is camouflaged. Put all the children's pages/ drawings together to create a book. As a group create a cover and decide on the title ie *Find the Hidden Animals* or *Spot the Animal*, subheadings *Animals that use Camouflage*.

***a remarkable reptile, survivor of time,
the last of the mighty dinosaurs.***

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- ULTIMATE SURVIVOR

Illustration

ART
APPRECIATION

- A bold open mouthed crocodile strikes the reader with all it's grandeur.
- Water lilies feature once again a common thread throughout the book.

Questions / Discussion

SCIENCE

- Why do you think the crocodile has survived so long?
- Why do you think people are so fascinated by crocodiles?
- Why do you think crocodiles were protected in the early 70's?

CONSERVATION

- What is a crocodile farm and why are crocodiles farmed?
- Do you think the croc will live another 200 million years?

Suggested Activity

SCIENCE ART

- Using four remarkable facts you have found out from the book, make a poster about crocodiles. Posters should include the heading “The Saltwater Crocodile”, at least one illustration and four facts.

Midnight strikes....

Main Concepts

SCIENCE

- MATING
- TIME

Illustration

ART APPRECIATION

- A large croc sidles up behind another croc in the dead of night.
- Moonlight on the water as midnight strikes again.

Questions / Discussion

MATHS

- What is the main crocodile doing?
- What time is it?
- How many hours have past since the first “*Midnight strikes....*”?

Suggested Activity

EXCURSION

- Perhaps you can organise an excursion to one of the wild life parks that are home to crocodiles.

Information Pages

The illustration on the last page of poetry text continues over onto the information pages, showing an excellent cross-section of a saltwater crocodile with detailed information about it’s anatomy. Eight pages of child friendly information then covers all the concepts of each double page spread. It also includes “The Environment and the Crocodile”.

An added bonus is the wall chart which features the poem with the illustration from the cover.

The back cover gives an overview of the book and a photo of Kim Michelle Toft painting an illustration from the book. This helps to show how large each original silk is and the technique of silk painting.

Overall Book

Questions / Discussion

- Who is the author and illustrator?
- What medium has the illustrator used? (Refer to the photo on the backcover which shows a silk painting from the book in progress)
- What is your favourite illustration and why?
- Does anyone know any other stories or songs about crocodiles?

Suggested Activities

Watch the movie “Peter Pan” and discuss the crocodile swallowing the clock and ticking which is similar to overall concept of the book, time and crocodiles.

- Source the song “*Never Smile at a Crocodile*” (Disney) and sing.
Available on “youtube – rolf harris: never smile at a crocodile (with lyrics)”
- Read other books about crocodiles and compare the differences in presentation, illustration style and information.
ie *Crocodile River* by Diana Lawrenson and Danny Snell (*Working Title Press*)
The Cranky Crocodile by Rebecca Johnson and Steve Parish (*Steve Parish Publishing*)
- Visit www.kimtoft.com.au and click on “virtual tour” to watch a short video about Kim’s work and how she paints on silk
- Arrange for Kim Michelle Toft to visit your school
contact :Helen Bain at Speakers Ink email info@speakers-ink.com.au

Recommended Websites

www.crocodilian.com

www.nt.gov.au/becrocwise

www.australian-animals.net/croc.htm

www.en.wikipedia.org/Wikipedia.org/wiki/Saltwater-Crocodile-Illustration

www.australianmuseum.net.au/image/Saltwater-Crocodile-Illustration/

Author/Illustrator Background

Kim Michelle Toft has been drawing since the age of 4, her love of art has stayed with her throughout her ‘colourful’ life. Spanning over the past 46 years Kim has been a teacher in far North Queensland, a graphic designer living on the beach in Adelaide, South Australia, a full time marine and silk artist based in beautiful Northern NSW and for the past 16 years a celebrated author and illustrator, still living in beautiful Northern NSW. Her multi award winning environmental children’s books are quite unique as they are illustrated with hand painted silks. Kim’s silk

paintings are sold worldwide and have been purchased by some very famous people including the late Morris West, Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall.

Kim's Environmental Picture Books

All Kim's books have a strong environmental focus and reflect her love of the ocean and the coastal habitats which support it. The combination of interesting, interactive prose-style text and stunningly detailed hand painted silk illustrations have made her books internationally and nationally renowned, winning many coveted awards including-

One Less Fish – Honour Book – Children's Book Council of Australia

The World That We Want – Honour Book - Green Earth Book Awards, USA

All Kim's books are still in print, which is a testament to their quality.

Her past titles include:

- *One Less Fish (UQP)*
- *Neptune's Nursery (UQP)*
- *Turtle's Song (UQP)*
- *The World That We Want (UQP)*
- *Reef Superstar (Brolly Books)*
- *A Sea of Words (Silkim Books)*
- *The Twelve Underwater Days of Christmas (Silkim Books)*
- *Tick Tock Tick Tock What's Up Croc? (Silkim Books)*

Silkim Books was set up by Kim 6 years ago, publishing the last 3 books. Each book takes approximately 2 years to research, draw, paint, design and produce. One hand painted silk illustration takes 2-3 weeks to produce and an original silk can measure up to 2 metres x 1 metre!

Kim visits more than 30 schools nationally a year spreading the environmental message as well as demonstrating/teaching her unique illustration style – silk painting.

Tick Tock Tick Tock What's Up Croc? is Kim's 8th book. She is already working on her next two books, *The Forgotten Sea* and *Recipe for Perfect Planet Pie*.

Author Motivation

“While visiting Darwin a few years ago, my fascination for an animal that roamed the planet with the dinosaurs, the Saltwater Crocodile, was reignited.

The balmy heat, stunning sunsets, lush vegetation around ancient waterways and the fact that it is home to the greatest prehistoric predator ever to have lived, led me to write and illustrate *Tick Tock Tick Tock What's Up Croc?*

I wanted to use time as a vehicle to tell their amazing survival story which has

changed little over the past 200 million years. The book looks at a day in the life of a Saltwater Crocodile starting and ending at midnight.

I wanted to use interesting slow moving text to reflect the crocodile's style of living and the subliminal line of text "*tick tock tick tock*" on each page to symbolise that time never stops and all living things are propelled into the future at the same rate.

It was also a challenge for me to paint a creature that lives above the water as well as below. Each illustration takes approximately 2-3 weeks to draw and paint onto the silk. The original silk illustrations for *Tick Tock Tick Tock What's Up Croc?* are all 1.8m x 1m.

I always love doing the research for the information pages in the back of my books and when I finished *Tick Tock Tick Tock What's Up Croc?* I began to realise why the saltwater crocodile is considered both a 'living fossil' and a 'living legend'."

Kim Michelle Toft

Marketing and Selling Points

- For ages pre-school to middle-upper primary
- Poetic text and stunning hand painted silk illustrations
- A topic of enduring fascination to many people
- Bonus full colour wall chart
- Ten pages of child friendly information, ideal for research
- Kim Michelle Toft's record for producing excellent educational, environmental and visually beautiful children's books. All still in print.