



Match the Swamp

Draw a line from each word on the left to its match on the right.

Name _____

Date _____

Ectotherm

A non-native animal that damages the ecosystem it arrives in

Polyphyodont

Takes its body heat from the surroundings, not from food

Bellow

Shapes the whole habitat - alligator holes hold water through the dry season

Invasive species

A low call so deep it vibrates the water above the animal

Apex predator

The group holding alligators, crocodiles, caimans and gharials

Keystone species

Replaces its teeth over and over for its whole life

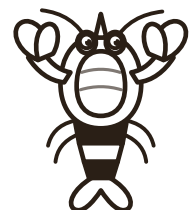
Crocodilian

Sits at the top of the food web with no natural predator of its own

Then answer

Temperature decides sex in an alligator nest. Cooler parts of the mound produce females, the warmest parts produce males, and a mound with a range of temperatures produces both.

A nest sits in full shade all season. Predict what that means for the hatchlings, and explain why.



Match the Swamp - answer key

Invasive species	→ A non-native animal that damages the ecosystem it arrives in
Ectotherm	→ Takes its body heat from the surroundings, not from food
Keystone species	→ Shapes the whole habitat - alligator holes hold water through the dry season
Bellow	→ A low call so deep it vibrates the water above the animal
Crocodilian	→ The group holding alligators, crocodiles, caimans and gharials
Polyphyodont	→ Replaces its teeth over and over for its whole life
Apex predator	→ Sits at the top of the food web with no natural predator of its own

Written answer: a nest in full shade stays at the cooler end of the range, so the clutch would be expected to be mostly or entirely female.
Credit any answer that links shade to lower incubation temperature and lower temperature to females.