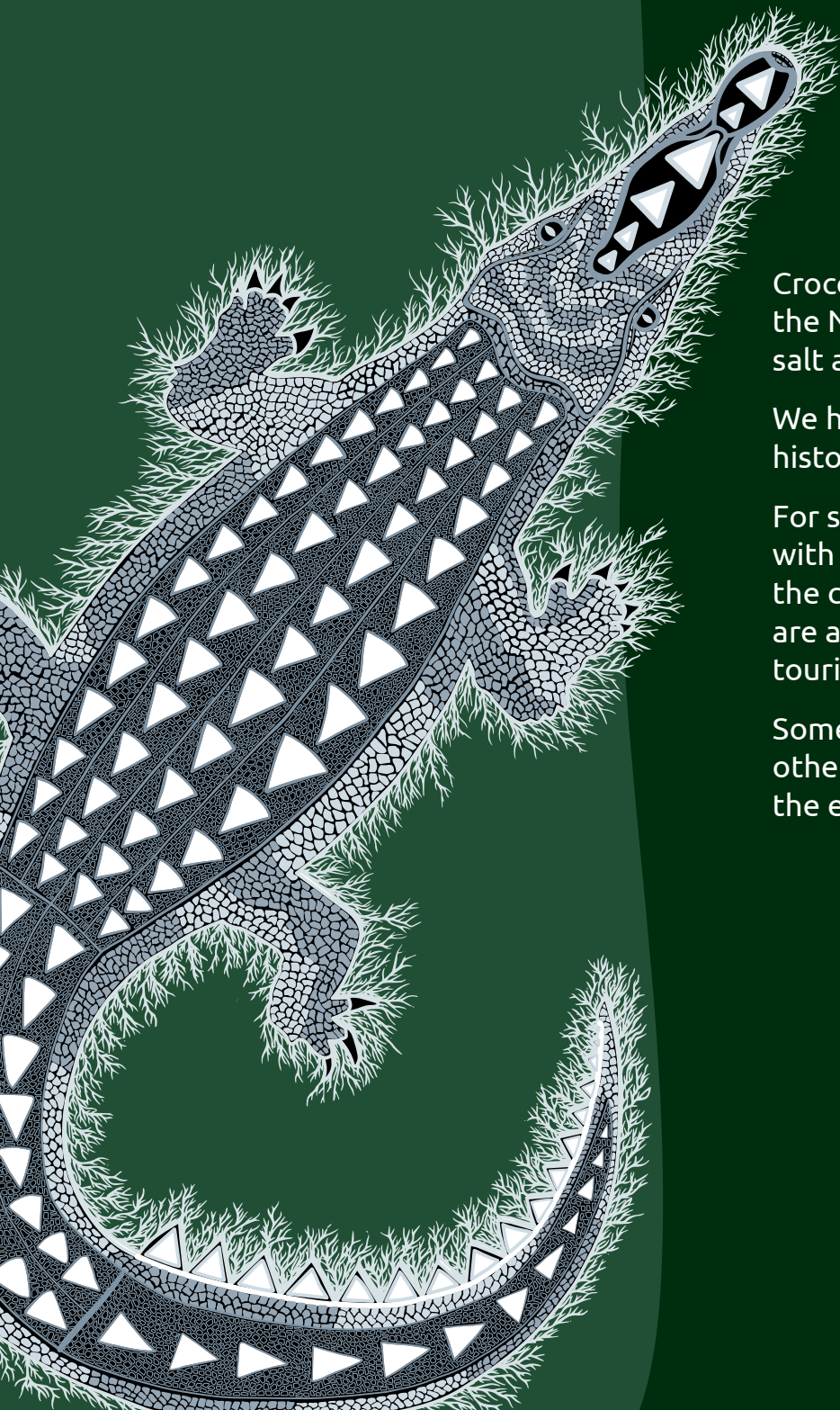


BE SAFE IN CROC COUNTRY

BE CROCWISE 



Crocodiles live in the Top End of the Northern Territory in both salt and freshwater.

We have a long and complicated history with crocodiles.

For some people they are a totem with a strong cultural connection to the country, for others crocodiles are a source of income through tourism and farming.

Some people fear them while other people see them as part of the environment.

Many different people including the Northern Territory Government, Parks and Wildlife, Parks Australia, Aboriginal Ranger Groups and the Nhulunbuy Corporation manage saltwater crocodiles.

Since their protection in 1971, crocodile numbers have recovered to what they were before crocodiles were hunted and everyone needs to Be Crocwise while doing the things we all love like fishing, hunting, swimming and boating.

The Be Crocwise Big Book aims to help everyone understand crocodiles and how to enjoy the water safely.

For more information and resources visit becrocwise.nt.gov.au



We have **2 kinds** of crocodiles.

Freshwater and saltwater crocodiles live in waters around us.

Freshwater crocodiles like to live in freshwater. They have sharp teeth and a long narrow snout.

They eat small things like fish, frogs and turtles.

They are usually shy and prefer to stay away from people.



**Saltwater
crocodiles can
grow really BIG.**

Saltwater crocodiles like to live in both salt **and** freshwater.

They have a wide snout and very strong jaws and teeth.

A big saltwater crocodile can eat **really big things** – including people!



Crocodiles are **PROTECTED!**

Many years ago there were lots of crocodiles.

People came to Northern Australia from all over the world to hunt them. They wanted their skins to make lots of money.

They killed so many saltwater crocodiles that there were almost none left in the rivers!

In the 1971 special laws were made to protect crocodiles. People realised that no more crocodiles was bad for the environment, bad for the culture of Aboriginal people and bad for business.



No one is allowed to hunt crocs without permission.

Crocodiles living in the wild are good for business.

Many people come to the Northern Territory from around the world to see a crocodile living where they are supposed to be. Lots of people work in businesses that help our visitors see crocodiles. Lots of people work in businesses that make money from farming crocodiles, or from collecting crocodile eggs from the wild that are sold to farms.





**All animals are food for
saltwater crocodiles.**


Saltwater crocodiles are the top of the food chain, the boss of the river. This means they can eat whatever they want for dinner – even each other.



Crocodiles are **camouflaged**.

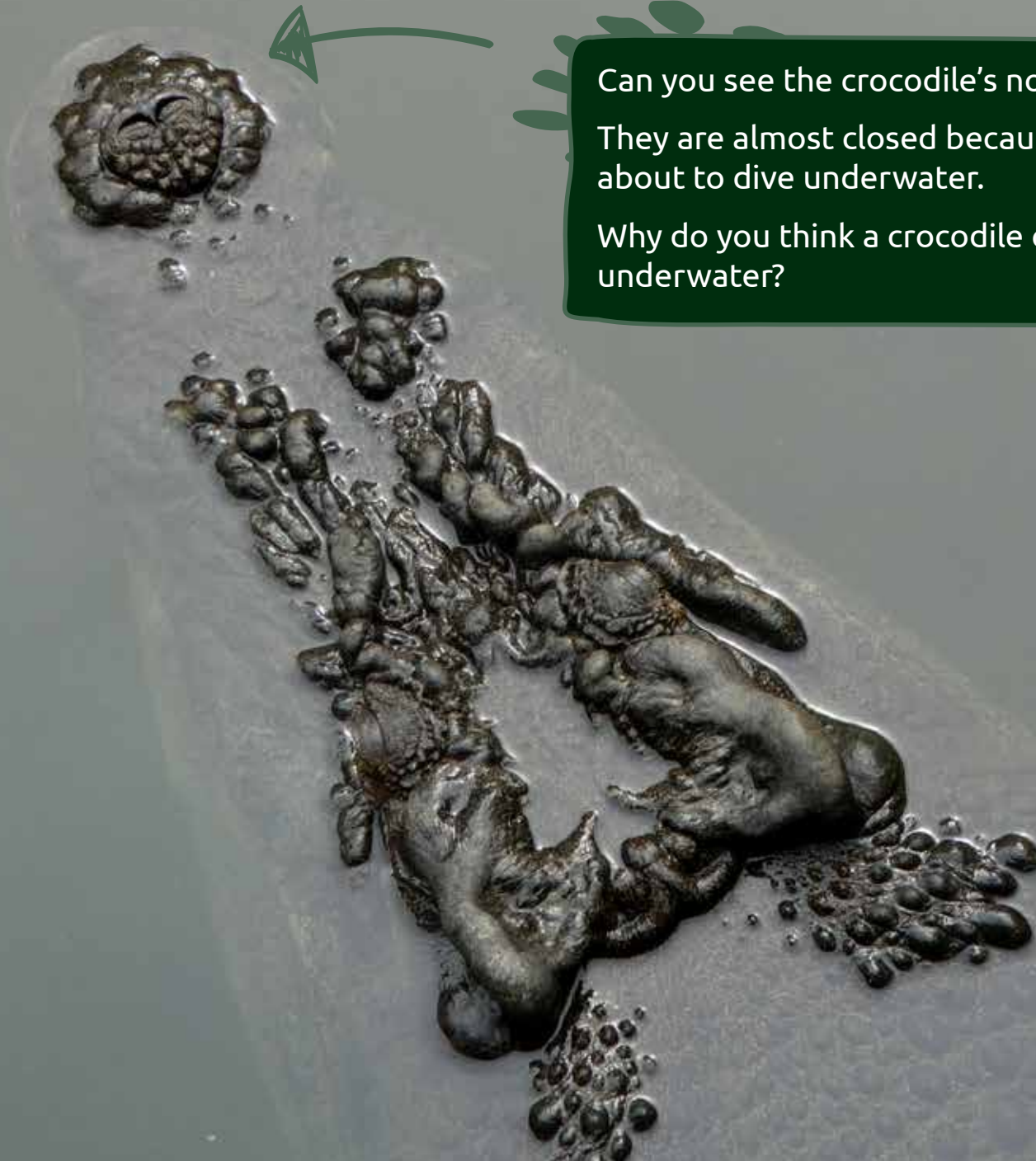
Crocodiles are almost the same colour as the water, rocks and mud. They are good at hiding.

It's really hard to see them, even when they are swimming on top of the water.



Can you see the
crocodile hiding
in the water?

Keep your family **safe**
by remembering that
crocs are very good
at hiding.



Can you see the crocodile's nostrils?


They are almost closed because this crocodile is just about to dive underwater.

Why do you think a crocodile closes its nose underwater?



Crocs don't need to see or smell you, they can 'feel' you in the water.

The skin on a crocodile's face, belly and arms has little dots. These are special nerves that make it as sensitive as your fingertips. They use their sensitive skin to feel things swimming past them in muddy water.



Can you see underwater without goggles? A crocodile can. Its extra eyelids are like goggles. The extra eyelid is called a **nictitating membrane** and it helps to protect their eye while they swim and hunt underwater.



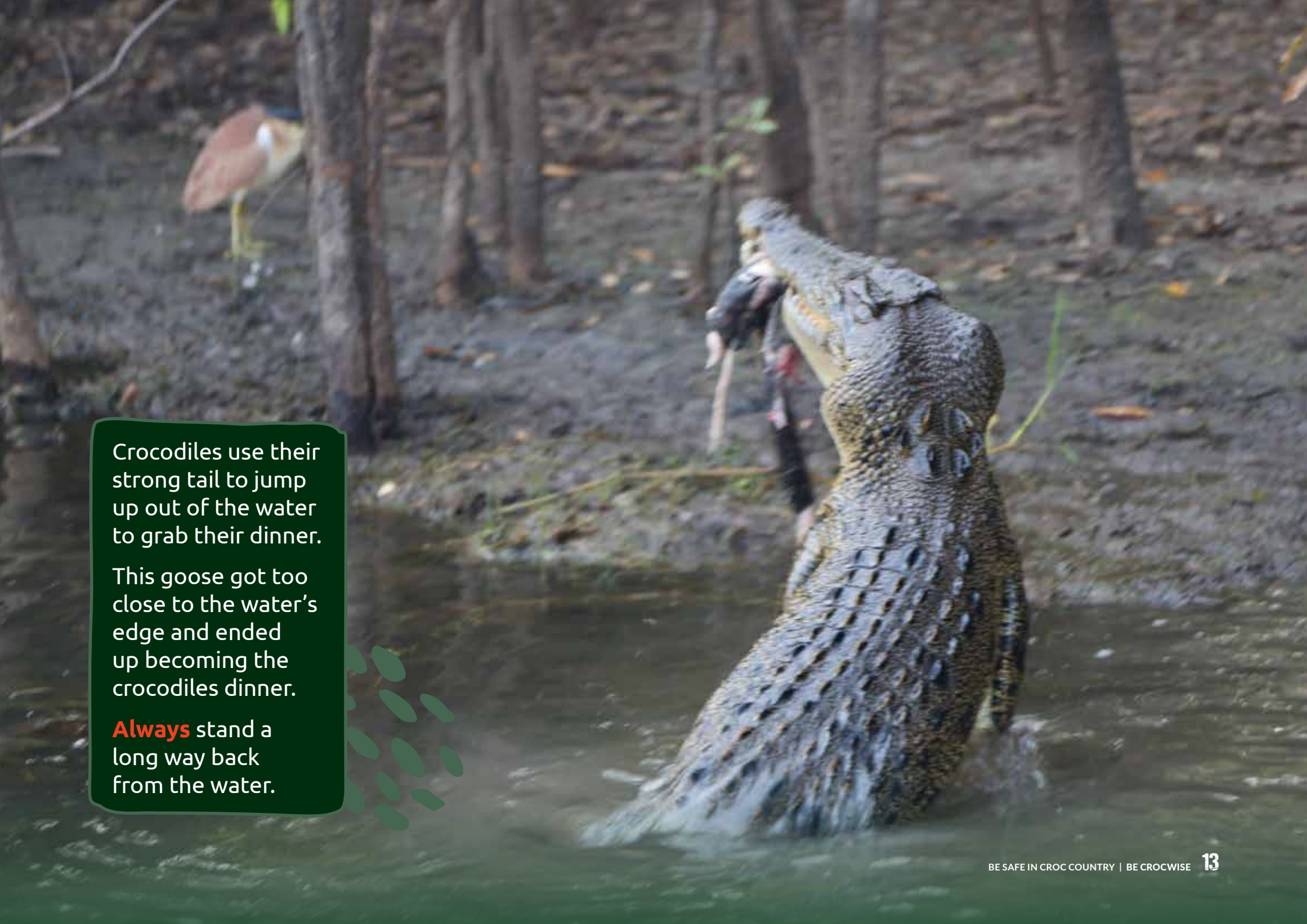
Crocodiles can
see really well.



**Crocodiles
don't use
their legs to
jump out of
the water.**

This big saltwater crocodile is missing a couple of its legs. It might have lost them in a fight, but that's ok it doesn't need them to jump.

A crocodile uses its big strong tail to lift its whole body out of the water.



Crocodiles use their strong tail to jump up out of the water to grab their dinner.

This goose got too close to the water's edge and ended up becoming the crocodile's dinner.

Always stand a long way back from the water.

A photograph of a river scene. In the foreground, a large crocodile is partially submerged in the water, its head and front legs visible. Several people are swimming in the river, some near the crocodile. The riverbank is lined with dense green trees and vegetation. The sky is clear and blue.

Crocodiles can be found in **shallow water**.

Swimming is fun when it's hot, but always remember, crocodiles can even be found in shallow, clear water.

These people **are not** swimming in a **safe place**. A safe swimming place will have a sign saying that you can swim.

A close-up photograph of a crocodile's head and front half as it moves through water. The crocodile is facing left, and its head is partially above the surface. A large, dynamic splash of water is visible behind the crocodile's head, indicating rapid movement. The water is dark and murky, and the background is out of focus.

Crocodiles
are **fast**
swimmers.

Do you reckon you can out-swim a crocodile? **No way!**
Crocodiles can swim much faster than the best human swimmers.



Always follow all warnings about crocodiles.

Warnings may be on signs or stickers, on the radio or in the instructions or stories from older people.




Remember, saltwater crocodiles live in both salt and freshwater.

They can even live in drying up mud holes like this one while they wait for the rain to come.



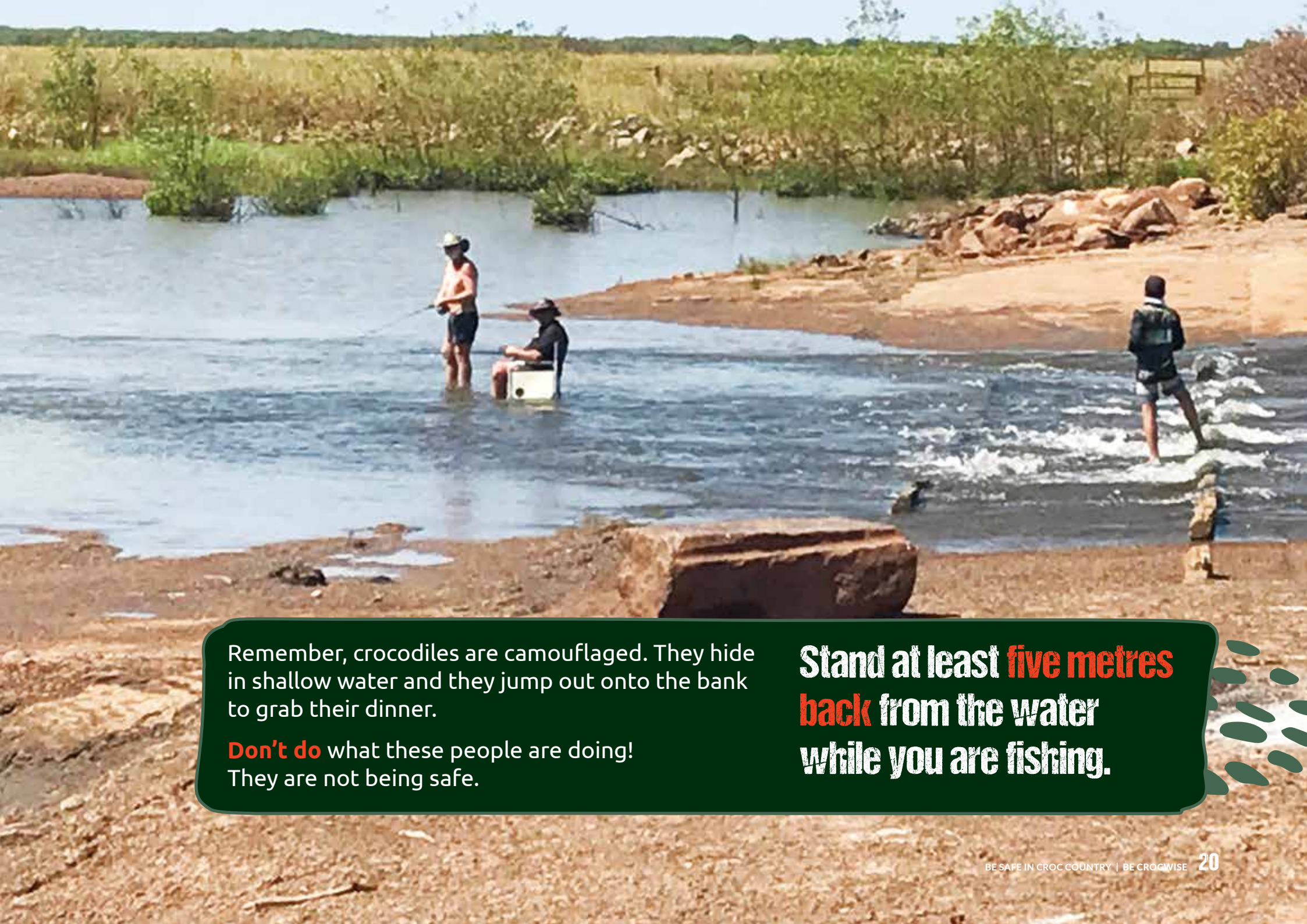
Crocodiles lie on the bank or the beach to get warm in the sun.

They will also leave the water to get food, or walk to a new waterhole if theirs dries out.



Crocodiles leave tracks in the sand when they pull themselves up out of the water.

Stay away from crocodile tracks or belly slide marks. The crocodile may still be there somewhere!



Remember, crocodiles are camouflaged. They hide in shallow water and they jump out onto the bank to grab their dinner.

Don't do what these people are doing! They are not being safe.

Stand at least five metres back from the water while you are fishing.



**Crocs can
smell and hear
really well.**

A crocodile's nostrils and ears close up so the water doesn't get in. When a crocodile is above the water it can hear and smell you from a long way away. They know when you are washing your fish at the water's edge. They can smell you and the fish, and can hear any splashing you make. Help keep everyone safe by cleaning your catch far **away from the water.**



How big is really BIG?

Saltwater crocodiles in the Northern Territory can be more than **six metres long**. That is a very big animal!

Crocodiles can be much longer than a boat.



A man wearing a hat and sunglasses is sitting on a rocky bank, fishing. He is holding a fishing rod that is bent, indicating he has caught something. The background shows a body of water and a distant shoreline with trees under a clear sky.

Saltwater crocodiles can **jump**.

Your boat may be smaller than a crocodile.

Saltwater crocodiles can jump into small boats.

Protect yourself while you are fishing by keeping your arms and legs away from the sides and never sleep on your boat.

When you are fishing from the bank, never turn your back on the water. Stay five metres back and keep a tall slope or rocks in between you and the water.

A large crocodile is lying on the grass in the foreground. In the background, there is a campsite with a blue and orange tent, a person standing near it, and a large tree. The scene is set in a grassy area with some trees and a body of water visible in the distance.

Camp at least fifty metres from the water.

Campers have been attacked by saltwater crocodiles because their tents were too close to the water.

**Camp far away
from the water.**



**WARNING
DANGER**

**CROCODILE TRAPS
HAVE BEEN SET AND BAITED IN
THIS AREA BY DJELK RANGERS
STAY AWAY FROM TRAPS
STAY OUT OF THE WATER**

THANK YOU

DJELK RANGERS PHONE : 89795803

**Rangers help
keep you safe.**

Rangers from across the Top End
work hard to keep people safe
from saltwater crocodiles.






Rangers use traps and lots of other tools to help keep the community safe from crocodiles.

Stay safe and **stay away** from crocodile traps! There might be a crocodile nearby hiding.

Don't damage signs that tell people about crocodiles. The signs are there to keep you and your family safe.





Everyone needs to
be clever around
water where
crocodiles live.

You need to
Be Crocwise.

There are lots more crocodiles and people
now than when hunting was stopped.

This can sometimes mean that people and
crocodiles live close to each other.

ALWAYS BE CROCWISE



Crocs can be scary but they are **important** and they are where **they belong**! So we all need to stay safe around water and **Be Crocwise**!

Being **Crocwise** is remembering to:

- keep your family safe from crocs
- stay five metres away from the water
- keep your arms and legs inside the boat
- camp a long way from the water
- clean up your fishing rubbish
- swim in safe places (look for signs)
- stay away from croc traps and croc tracks
- listen to the Rangers and Elders.

