

How to Count Crocodiles

Once there was a monkey who was always up to tricks and getting into mischief.

One morning Monkey came dancing down to the river. The first thing she saw, way over on the other side, was a mango tree laden with greeny-yellow-orange mangoes.

Just looking at those mangoes made her feel hungry.



Practice questions

A What fruit was growing on the tree?

Tick **one**.

oranges

☐

bananas

☐

lemons

☐

mangoes

☐

B Where was the tree?

"I must have some mangoes!" she said. "I must!
But how can I cross to the other side?"

Monkey sat and she thought. And then ... she saw a dark snout and two slit eyes, floating down the river.

"That's Old Snapper-jaws, if I'm not mistaken," she said. "He could be useful." She called out, "King Crocodile!"



1 What would Monkey have to do to get the mangoes?

Tick **one**.

cross the field

☐

cross the road

☐

cross the river

☐

cross the path

☐

2 **Find** and **copy two** names that Monkey called Crocodile.

1. _____

2. _____

Crocodile lifted his head out of the water.

“I have been thinking,” said Monkey. “There are lots of crocodiles living around here. But I bet there are more monkeys. Lots and lots more.”

“Not true!” said Crocodile. “There are lots more crocodiles than monkeys!”



3 Why did Crocodile say “Not true”?

Tick **one**.

because he didn't
understand

☐

because he had
counted them

☐

because he didn't
agree

☐

because he was
king

☐

4 Who said there were more crocodiles than monkeys?

“We could do some counting,” said Monkey, “and find out.”

“And how could we do that?” asked Crocodile.

“Well,” said Monkey, “you could go up and down the river and tell all the crocodiles to come here. Then I could do the counting.”

“After that, you could get all the monkeys to come,” said Crocodile, and he grinned. “And we could ea ... oops ... I mean count them.”



5 What did Monkey want Crocodile to do?

6 Why did Crocodile grin?

Tick **one**.

to show his teeth

☐

he thought Monkey was funny

☐

to show he could count

☐

he thought he could eat the monkeys

☐

Then Crocodile swam up and down the river, telling his friends to come to a Big Crocodile Count.

It was not long before there was a great big tangle of crocodiles, twisting and turning, in the river near where Monkey sat.



7 Who did Crocodile talk to when he went up and down the river?

8 Which word shows that the crocodiles were in a muddle?

Tick **one**.

tangle

☐

turning

☐

counting

☐

swam

☐

"ALL YOU CROCODILES!" shouted Monkey.

"GET IN A LINE! SIDE BY SIDE!"

And the crocodiles swam around until they had made a line that reached from one river bank right across to the other.

Monkey jumped on the back of the nearest crocodile and counted, "ONE!"



9 How did the crocodiles get into a line?

Tick **one**.

They jumped.

☐

They swam.

☐

They shouted.

☐

They counted.

☐

She jumped on the next crocodile. "TWO!"
Then the next, and the next. "THREE! FOUR!"



Monkey kept on jumping and counting until she counted "TWENTY-NINE!" and with one last jump she was on the other side of the river.

10 What did Crocodile **think** Monkey was trying to do?

11 What was Monkey **really** trying to do?

Monkey danced over to the mango tree. She climbed it, reached out, picked a greeny-yellow-orange mango, and took a big bite.

"Ooooh!" she said. "This mango is scr-ump-tious!"

"Now," said Crocodile, "go and fetch all the monkeys and line them up along the bank so I can count them."

"Go and fetch all the monkeys?" said Monkey with a cheeky smile.

"I wasn't planning to do that!"

"And why not?" asked Crocodile.

"Old Snapper-jaws," said Monkey,

"I don't care whether there are more monkeys.

I only wanted to cross the river so I could eat some mangoes."

Then twenty-nine angry crocodiles went swimming off to look for their dinner. And, to this day, what crocodiles like to eat most of all is ... monkey! The trouble is monkeys are very, very, hard to catch.



12 What did Monkey do to show that she was happy?

Tick **one**.

She danced.

☐

She climbed.

☐

She jumped.

☐

She counted.

☐

13 Why did Monkey call Crocodile *Old Snapper-jaws* instead of *King Crocodile*?

Tick **one**.

because Crocodile was
angry

☐

because she had stopped
being nice to him

☐

because she wanted to
be nice to him

☐

because Crocodile told her to

☐

14 Why were the crocodiles angry?

15 How did Monkey trick the crocodiles?

Tick **one**.

by calling them
names

☐

by pretending she wanted to
eat mangoes

☐

by telling them
jokes

☐

by pretending she wanted to
count them

☐