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In addition to Egypt, cultures from other parts of Africa, as well as the Indo-Pacific region, also assigned crocodiles important symbolism. To give a few examples, the Venda people of the Transvaal region (located in modern-day South Africa) valued the fierceness of the

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crocodile and considered it an appropriate symbol for their chief; due to its extremely fast and precise attacks when taking down prey, the Chinese and Cambodians associated crocodiles with lightning; and certain Aboriginal tribes of Australia consider the crocodile a wise ancestor figure, as well as the one who brought fire to the human race.

Crocodiles also have a significant association with trickery and deceit. The well-known expression "crocodile tears" essentially refers to a farce; crying not out of sadness but for the sake of appearances and/or to achieve a desire. Medieval bestiaries claimed that crocodiles used such tactics to lure their prey within striking distance, but this phenomenon may be due to something else entirely; when crocodiles are stalking from the water, their eyes are typically the only part of their bodies that remain visible above the surface. As they raise and lower themselves beneath the surface, water would naturally come from their eyes, giving the impression of tears.

Categories: [Animal Symbolism \(/category/13\)](#), [Egyptian Hieroglyphs \(/category/14\)](#).

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Dove
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Crocodile
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