

CAIMAN CHALLENGE

Caimans have many unique traits. Some help them survive. For each caiman trait, describe how it benefits them. Then, think about the “what if” question and how the changed trait would affect them. Would it help a caiman survive or make it more challenging? Describe how.

Trait #1: Caimans have brown, bumpy scales.

Does this benefit caimans? If so, how?

WHAT IF

Their scales were blue instead of brown?

Would this help or harm them? Describe how.

Could the caiman change its behavior, diet, or environment to make the trait useful? Describe how.

CAIMAN CHALLENGE

Trait #2: Caimans have sharp, pointy teeth. They lose and replace them throughout their lives.

Does this benefit caimans? If so, how?

WHAT IF

Their teeth were wide and flat instead of pointy?

Would this help or harm them? Describe how.

Could the caiman change its behavior, diet, or environment to make the trait useful? Describe how.

CAIMAN CHALLENGE

Trait #3: A caiman's eyes, nose, and ears are on the top of its head.

Does this benefit caimans? If so, how?

WHAT IF

Its eyes, nose, and ears were on the side of its head?

Would this help or harm them? Describe how.

Could the caiman change its behavior, diet, or environment to make the trait useful? Describe how.

CAIMAN CHALLENGE

Trait #4: Caimans have long, tall, muscular tails.

Does this benefit caimans? If so, how?

WHAT IF

They had short, weak tails?

Would this help or harm them? Describe how.

Could the caiman change its behavior, diet, or environment to make the trait useful? Describe how.
