
Crochet a Wild Animal Rug with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Crochet a Wild Animal Rug

Overview

(bright music) - What has two arms, two legs, two eyes, and tons of half double crochet stitches? It's the crocheted wild animal rug you're about to learn how to make. I'm Twinkie Chan. I'm a crochet designer and author, and I love creating colorful projects that make people smile. In this class, I'll teach you how to make a bear rug, a tiger rug, and a crocodile rug. We begin with the bear since it's the most basic pattern of the three, and you'll see how its modular construction gives you a lot of freedom for designing different shapes and animals. For the tiger rug, we'll add some color changes, eye-catching applique, and a curvy tail that will give you a lot of practice in shaping. The crocodile rug is the largest of all. I'll show you an easy popcorn stitch that adds tons of texture without a lot of extra work. I know these projects look big, but don't let that scare you away. We're gonna use big chunky yarn and a big crochet hook, and you'll be snuggling with your new rug in no time. Each of these animals has their own unique personality, and they're all sure to cause an uproar in your home.

Materials

- Let's go over the tools and materials that you'll need to make your rugs. You'll need an M or a nine millimeter crochet hook. You could also go up a size with an N hook. A pair of scissors. A tapestry needle that's large enough to accommodate a super bulky yarn. You'll need some sewing thread. I have some cream and some black. And a sewing needle. And for the yarn, I'm using Lion Brand Wool-Ease Thick & Quick. It's a super bulky. For the bear rug, you'll need about five skeins of a brown color. This is Flax. And about 10 yards each of Black and Fisherman. For the tiger, you'll need about five skeins of orange. This is Pumpkin. A whole skein of Black and about 70 yards of Fisherman. And finally, for the crocodile rug, you'll need seven skeins of green. This is Grass, just two to three yards of Black, and about 50 yards of Fisherman. And don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Bear

Bear body

- Let's start with the bear rug. It's the most basic pattern, and the other two rugs kind of riff off that one. But before we begin crocheting, I wanna take you through a diagram of what we're about to make. Since this project is fairly large, I thought that looking at a map of what we're doing would be really helpful. We're gonna start with the body, which is essentially a rectangle, but we chop off the corners in order to make an angle to make our limbs. And we'll also do a tail, and we'll finish up with the head and the face. We can move this out of the way for now. Grab your brown yarn. I actually like to find the tail that's in the middle, so that as I'm working, the skein of yarn doesn't roll around all over my work surface. Grab your crochet hook, and we'll start with the slip knot. This entire project is worked in rows with our foundation chain, let's start with chain 29. So yarn over, and pull through. There's one chain. Two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10. If you're a beginner, I just want to make sure that you don't make these chains too tight, 'cause that will make that part of

your project super narrow. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29. And it's always a good idea to recount and double check, just to make sure you have the right number of chains. For row one, we're gonna skip the first two chains from the hook, that's one two, and we're going to work a row of half double crochets, one half double crochet evenly across, which means one half double crochet in each chain. And to work the half double crochet, we're gonna yarn over, and sort of a hook into the chain, yarn over and pull through one loop, yarn over and pull through all three loops on the hook. This is essentially the only stitch you're gonna use for the entire body. So we'll do that again, half double crochet into the next chain. Yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three. And just keep working in half double crochets evenly all the way down. And if it starts curling like that, don't worry, that's totally normal. It all relaxes later once you've allowed your project to rest. At the end of row one, you should have 27 half double crochets. It'll look like that. Row two is an increase row, we'll start with chain two, one, two, and turning the piece to work on the next row, and for all of our increase rows in the body, we're going to work an increase on this end, work evenly across, and then increase in the last stitch. So we'll increase the number of stitches in row two by two stitches. To work that increase, you're just gonna do one half double crochet in this first stitch, and then another one in the exact same stitch. So there's two half double crochet stitches in one stitch, and then work evenly across until only one stitch remains. Here you have one stitch left, so I'll work that increase, which is two half double crochets. You should have 29 stitches after row two. For rows three through seven, you're gonna do the exact same increase row as row two. So one increase in the first stitch, half double crocheting evenly until you reach the very last stitch, and then another increase there. And at the end of row seven, you should have 39 stitches. So increase in the first stitch, and then work evenly until one stitch remains, and that increase in the last stitch. This is what your piece should look like, you can see there's an angle here from your increase rows, that's where we're gonna put our arms and legs later. For rows eight through 40, we're just gonna work evenly across, no more increasing, and that will start straightening out this shape to create the length of our rug. So for row eight, we're gonna chain two, turn, and then stop increasing, it's just one half double crochet, in each stitch all the way across. And again, this is row eight, and you wanna do this until row 40. At some point in making the body, you will definitely run out of yarn, and you'll need to join a new skein, and I'll show you how to do that. Make sure you leave enough yarn here to be able to weave this tail in later. Grab your next ball of yarn, and what I like to do is put a slip knot on my hook when I join a new yarn. I think it just makes things easier for me to handle, but you don't have to. So here's my slip knot, which also counts as a loop on my hook, it counts as my first yarn over for my next half double crochet, and I'll just continue forward from there. And then you can just weave those in when you're finished with the body piece. I've completed about four rows of my even half double crochets, and you can see where that starts here, because this angling has stopped, and this straight edge has begun. So once again, just keep working your even half double crochet rows, until the end of row 40. And if you want to double check your row count, it should always be 39 stitches, and if this straight edge ever starts going in, you might be decreasing accidentally, so watch out for that, if it starts fanning out again, you might be increasing accidentally. So just keep an eye on this edge, and make sure it stays straight. Here's the body after completing row 40, this is our nice straight edge, and for rows 41 through 46, we're gonna start decreasing. We're gonna bring this angle in, sort of mirroring how we began the project. Row 41, we're gonna chain two and turn, it's getting a little big, so as you turn your project, it's a little floppy. Just be patient with yourself, and we'll do a decrease to start, and then half double crochet evenly across, until we have two stitches remaining at the end,

and we'll work another decrease. The decrease is a half double crochet together, and I'll show you how to do that. You'll yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and pull through one, that's just like half of a half double crochet. Then you'll yarn over again. Insert your hook into the following stitch, yarn over, and pull through one. So basically you have two half-finished, half double crochets on your hook. Then you'll yarn over, and pull through all five loops on your hook. And that creates a decrease, because you used two stitches from the previous row to create one stitch in the current row. And then we'll continue with our half double crochets, one in each stitch, all the way down until the last two stitches. In the last two, I'm gonna work my other decrease. So half double crochet two together, there's half a half double crochet, there's another half of the other half double crochet, yarn over, and complete the stitch. So in this row, we decreased our stitch count by two, one on each side, and for rows 42 through 46, you're gonna keep doing the same thing. One decrease on each side. And at the end of row 46, your stitch count should be 27. So there half double crochet two together to begin, and then half double crochets all the way across. You can see we have this nice angle coming inward toward the center, and our final row, row 47, is just half double crochets evenly across. And there should be 27 of them. There's the last half double crochet, going to break off, just leaving enough tail to be able to weave this in, to break off or finish off, yarn over, and pull the tail all the way through, and it makes this convenient little knot. For weaving in the end, you'll use your tapestry needle, I'm gonna flop this upside down, just so it's easier for me to access. And what I do is I like to weave inside the stitch, so that I know that my yarn tail will also be inside the stitch. So I'll check that I can't see my needle on this side, and I'll check that, I can see a little bit, but I think it'll be okay, at least it's not completely poking out of one of these stitches, and you only need to run through maybe like three or four of these half double crochets. And the one thing I would warn you about is don't pull this too tight, otherwise you'll warp the shape of your project, and I'll weave through down into the next row, and then weave back through the other direction. And changing directions helps lock in that tail, and it helps make sure that the yarn tail will not pop out. Again, I'm being sure not to tug too hard, and then you can snip that really close, you'll need to weave in all the other yarn tails that you might have from having changed your balls of yarn.

Bear limbs and tail

- You've completed the largest part of the project. Let's give our bear rug some arms, legs, and a tail. The arms and legs are all the same, so let's start with one, and you're going to end up making four of them. Take your brown yarn, and give yourself about a 16-inch yarn tail. We're gonna use this for sewing later. And then, we'll begin with chain 12. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12. For row one, we'll skip the first two chains from the hook, and work our half double crochet in that third chain, and then one half double crochet in each chain across. At the end of row one, you should have 10 half double crochets. Rows two through 12 are all the same. Chain two, and turn, and half double crochet evenly across. Super easy. We're making a little rectangle here. Okay, this is 12 rows. This is our little rectangle. And now, we're gonna start decreasing to make a rounded top for the paw. So we'll chain two and turn. This is row 13. We'll work our decrease stitch, which you did before on the body. So that's the half double crochet two together, and then half double crochet evenly until two stitches remain. And then work your other half double crochet two together. Here's my last two stitches. And work our decrease. And at the end of row 13, you should have eight stitches. Chain two and turn. Row 14 is exactly the same. It's our decrease, half double crochet two together, half double crochet evenly until two stitches remain. And then decrease

again. Now, you should have six stitches across. on the last row, chain one. We've been chaining two this whole time, but just chain one here and turn. And just to give it an extra rounded top, we're gonna change up this last row. You'll skip the first stitch, and actually increase in the second stitch. So two half double crochets. That helps create kind of a curvature on the side, and then one half double crochet. And then another increase. So two half double crochets. Skip a stitch, and then slip stitch in the very last stitch. So we're kind of like increasing and cinching down the sides. So it creates kind of a nice curved top here. And break off. You can weave in this end now or later. I'm just gonna do it now. And then we're going to add some black lines to represent the claws of the bear paw. You get to decide whether you want the right side of that last row facing up, or if you want the wrong side of it facing up. The differences are very subtle, but I would suggest you decide and remain consistent. I personally like the wrong side of that last row showing 'cause I think it kinda like curves down a little bit more. But again, that difference is super subtle, and you get to decide. So I'm deciding that this wrong side of the last row is how I want my rug to be facing up. And take some black yarn. Give yourself like an arm length. You won't need that much, but I'd rather have too much than too little. Thread that on your tapestry needle. And you get to use your imagination a little bit here. You can decide how many nails you want. I'm gonna do three. That's probably not realistic, but to me, that just feels aesthetically pleasing. And you can decide how low you want them to go. I usually start mine kind of in this one, two, three, like the fourth row down. But again, you get to decide, I imagine my first claw on the left, maybe starting here and angling this way. So I'm gonna start bringing my needle up from the back. Now, that I'm seeing that, I think I might wanna start here, right, in the middle of this stitch. Pull this through. Remember, to leave enough tail on the back to be able to weave that in later. And then, I might go back in up in this area and that would be my first line. This is a very cartoonish, it's not super realistic, but I think it looks cute. And go back in where your tail is in the exact same stitch. And don't pull this too tight. Like you want it to lay nice and flat, but you don't wanna pull it too tight and warp the shape of the paw you worked so hard on. So I'm gonna make sure that's not too tight anymore. And to travel to my next spot, which should be around here in the middle, you want to weave your tapestry needle kind of inside the stitches. And it should be pretty invisible. And if it shows a little bit, I feel like that's not a big deal, but you wanna try to get inside the stitches. And also if it shows a lot on the back, that's not really a big deal. You just wanna try to make it as hidden on the front as possible. That looks pretty good. And then I'm gonna go kind of straight up toward the center like there. Create my second line. And here's where you might need to use your fingers to mark where to come back out. So I'm gonna put my thumb in the front here, and my second finger is right behind it, so I know to come back right there. I don't pull too tightly. And I'm gonna travel again. Maybe to here. Remember, if there's a lot of your needle showing, a lot of your yarn will show, so sometimes, I just try to like wiggle this in and hide it a bit more. Again, this is totally up to you. You'll figure it out. Just play with it a little bit. And if some of that yarn is showing, you can kind of use your needle to kind of bury it a little bit. Then my last nail, maybe we'll come out here and I'll flip this to the back and secure that, and also tie a knot at the same time. You can just wrap that around to make a loop and pull that through. And usually, with this super chunky yarn, you'll find that it gets dense very quickly. Knots feel much larger than if you were using like a worsted weight yarn. So I'll usually just do one knot to secure projects with super bulky yarn. And then you can hide these yarn tails. I usually switch directions just to secure that even more. And then trim. You can see how much extra yarn I have. I really overestimated on that, but you can kind of take this moment and now realize you may not need an entire arm length of yarn for your other nails, but just sort of to gauge in case

you're trying to save yarn. Just hide that in the back. So here's one, go ahead and make three more in the exact same way. Look how cute these are. You could make little mittens out of these. For the tail, grab your brown yarn again. We're gonna start with a chain five. Here's my slip knot. One, two, three, four, five. For row one, once again, skip first two chains from your hook and then work an increase. So two half double crochets in that first chain, and then one half double crochet in the next. And in the last chain, we're going to make an increase again. So that's two half double crochets in the same stitch. At the end of row one, you should have five stitches. Rows two and three are the same. Chain two and turn, and they're both increase rows again. So one increase on this side, just two half double crochets. And then work evenly and half double crochet until you have one stitch remaining. Here's my last stitch. I'll work my increase. One, two, and then row three is the exact same. Chain two. Turn, increase. And then work evenly. At the last stitch, work another increase. You should have nine stitches. And then for row four and five, we're just gonna chain two and turn and work evenly across. And that'll be the end of our bear's little tail. Break off, leaving about 16 to 18 inches of yarn for sewing this on later. And then weave in this short end. We've finished the body, the arms, the legs, and the tail. And the next piece we're gonna make is the head.

Bear head and face

- To shape the bear's head, we're going to use even more increases than before. So, grab your brown yarn and we can start. To start, we'll slip knot, and then chain nine. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. For row one, once again, skip the first two chains from the hook. And in the third chain we'll work in increase. So, two half double crochets, one and then two, and then another increase, two half double crochets again, in the next stitch, and then we'll continue to work one half double crochet in each chain until the last two chains. And then we're gonna work two increases again. So, here's the first increase, two half double crochets and then two half double crochets again in the last stitch, the end of row one, you should have 11 stitches. For row two, this will be very familiar to you now, it's a regular increase row where we work one increase and then work half double crochets evenly across until one stitch remains. And then we'll work our increase in that last stitch. And our last one, two half double crochets. And you're going to keep working these increase rows through row six. So, your increase in the first stitch, half double crochets all the way down evenly until the last stitch. And then another increase. And at the end of row six, you should have 21 stitches. At the end of row six, I'm gonna kind of smooth this out and take a look. If it starts kind of curling and looking scrunchy, you really just need to use your hands to start flattening things out and getting a good look at the shape. Let's count. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. Perfect, for rows seven and eight, you'll just work one increase for each row. So, we'll start with an increase here, two half double crochets, and then work evenly across all the way to the end. There's no increase on the other side. This is the end of row eight and for rows nine through 13, you'll stop increasing completely and just work half double crochets evenly across. This is gonna make sure that our curvature stops and we'll start approaching the top of the bear's head. So, no increase here at all. Just one half double crochet in each stitch. This is with row 13 complete. You should have 23 stitches across and for rows 14 and 15, we'll begin to decrease. So, for row 14, chain two and turn. We'll work a half double crochet two together in these first two stitches and then one half double crochet in each stitch until two stitches remain and we'll work another half double crochet two together. Here are the last two. We'll work our decrease and start the next row. Change two and turn and row 15 is the exact same thing. Decrease in the first two stitches, half double crochet all the way across until two stitches remain and half double crochet two together. At the end of row 15,

you should have 19 stitches. For the last row, which is row 16, chain two and turn, we're going to work even more decreases in this row. Begin with your half double crochet two together and then work another half double crochet two together in the next two stitches and then you'll work 11 half double crochets. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. You should have four stitches remaining. 1, 2, 3, 4, and we'll work another two sets of half double crochet two together. Here's the first one. There's the second one. We'll break off, leaving about 18 inches of yarn, we're sewing later. And then go ahead and weave in the short end. Put the head aside for now. Let's make our bear some ears. You can either begin with a magic circle or if you don't know how to do that you can also begin with chain three. I'm going to do the chain three, it's just easier for me. 1, 2, 3, for row one, you're either going to work five half double crochets into your magic circle, or if you chained three, like I did, work five half double crochets into the very first chain. It's 1, 2, 3, 4, and then five. For row two, chain two, and turn and work two half double crochets in each of those half double crochets, there'll be a total of 10 stitches. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. You made a little semi-circle here and that's a perfectly cute bear ear but just for a little extra finish, I like to work a row of single crochets at the bottom here just to make a border. So, what we'll do is chain one and just rotate the ear. So, we're working on that straight edge and I try to work six single crochets evenly across. So, for single crochet, insert your hook into a space, here and over and pull through one, here and over and pull through both loops. So, there's one, and you kind of have to eyeball this a little bit. Here's my second. There's my third, fourth, fifth. I'm almost at the end here. I like to work my very last single crochet into what ends up being the first half double crochet of round two or of row two. That makes a nice kind of clean line. And then we can break off leaving about 16 inches of yarn to sew our ear on later. Then you'll wanna weave in this end. And if you skipped the magic circle and did a chain three like I did, you might have kind of a hole here, but as you weave in this end, you can take the opportunity to close up that hole as well. So, there are little holy bits. I am usually not too concerned because I know I can always weave my end through and tighten that up. See, that's totally gone now and looks really good. Go ahead and make a second ear in the exact same way. To make our bear nose, grab your black yarn. Give yourself about 12 inches of yarn tail. You're going to use this to actually stitch a mouth later and I'll show you that when we get to that part. And then chain four, 1, 2, 3, 4, and row one, you'll skip the first chain from the hook and then work three single crochets evenly. It's 1, 2, 3, for row two, we'll chain two and turn, work our increase and half double crochet, two half double crochets and then work one half double crochet in the next stitch. And then another increase, two half double crochets in the last stitch. And you should have five stitches at the end of row two. And then the last row, row three, chain two, turn, some more increasing, two half double crochets. Then we'll work three half double crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3. And in the last stitch, two half double crochets. And that's it for the nose, break off, leaving about 16 inches of yarn for sewing later. And remember to leave the beginning yarn tail because we will need that. Now we're gonna make the eyes. Grab your cream colored yarn and we'll chain seven, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Skip the first chain from your hook and then work a slip stitch in the next chain. So, there's one slip stitch, then work single crochet in the next chain, and then two half double crochets evenly. So, one half double crochet and then another half double crochet in the next stitch. Single crochet in the next chain. And then end with slip stitch in the very last chain, chain one. And rotate this eye so that now you're working on the other side of the foundation chain. And we're basically going to do the exact same thing. So, you just made one half of the eye and now we're gonna make the other half. The slip stitch in the first space there. And then single crochet, two half double crochets, single crochet, slip stitch, and that's the last stitch. And then you can slip stitch into the first stitch of that eye to join

and break off. You don't have to use any of these tails for sewing later. So, just break off with enough yarn to weave in these ends. Let's go ahead and weave those in now. For such a tiny piece, weaving in the tails is gonna start feeling very dense so I tend to go a little bit lighter with the weaving. I might only give it like one pass through here and not be too concerned about going back through another row just with just these tiny little pieces, all these yarn tails are gonna get really clumpy and funky and I'm not really worried about the fact that they'll go around and come loose or go anywhere because these will be stitched onto the bear head. But if you do have a little gap like this, you can certainly use that opportunity here to close it up like we did with the ears. Okay, let's make sure the right side of our stitches on the eye are facing toward us and then we're going to use black yarn to stitch the center of the eye. Once again, I'm giving myself about a yard to work with and you might not use all of that but you might be surprised how much yarn the center of the eye can take. I'm gonna start in the center here with the longest stitch. Doesn't matter where, whether you start from the top or the bottom. I'm gonna start from the top. I'm gonna leave enough tail to weave in. I'm gonna go straight down to the bottom. Remember not to pull too tightly, or you could stop there. That's kind of like a snake-y looking eye. But what we're gonna do is work a couple more stitches and slowly think about making your stitches shorter as you move away from the center. We're not really trying to form a perfect circle here. That would be really difficult, but you sort of want to imagine that you're stitching a circle. I think that just having that goal is helpful but we're not gonna be super, super precise about it. Also, again, since this is a very bulky yarn, this is gonna start feeling thick very quickly. So, kind of think about making these stitches shorter but also don't stress too much if like this is not looking perfect because that's totally okay. I'm gonna start working on the left side of center now. You can always go back and fill in spots that look a little weird, like I might do another stitch over there, but we'll see. I'm working toward the left side now of the center. This is looking pretty eyeball-y. I'm gonna go back over here and just do one more. I'm pretty happy with that. And then you would just go ahead and flip this over and weave in the ends. And again, this is so bulky back here. I'm not really concerned that this tail's going anywhere, so I don't need to tie a knot. Just going to weave the tail through the back of these stitches a little bit and that'll be plenty secure and you can make a second eye. And if you're worried about your eyes not looking really symmetrical, what I always do is I make a third eye and then I pick the two that I like best.

Assembly

- It's time to put together all of our parts. And this is super fun, 'cause our bear will really start to look like a bear. It's always fun to lay out all the pieces on a big table or on the floor. You can see I placed all the arms and legs right at the little angles we made in the rectangle body. And then we have the tail. And on this end we have the head, the nose, the eyes, and the ears. You can really start sewing together these parts in whatever order you like. I really like to begin with the arms and the legs sort of working from the outside inward. This helps me center the positioning of the head and the tail. We'll start with one leg on one corner of the body. This should line up pretty well as far as the length of the arm and the length of this little edge here. For the body, there really is no right side or wrong side, so this can be on whatever side you like. And for the arm or leg, I like to have the right side of it facing up toward me. So this is the back which looks a little messier, so make sure the nicer looking side is facing toward you. And all you need to do is sew these pieces together with your tapestry needle. And there are all kinds of seaming techniques. I always default to whip stitching just because it's fast and easy. So I'll stick my needle into the edge here of the body and pull through. And then come back in the arm and then come back up through the body. You can see

how this is just a really quick and easy way to seam two crocheted pieces together. And if you want to use pins, you can, but this is such a short seam that I feel like you can just make sure both of these pieces are laying flat and they should match up. Always check your work. If you feel like you want to reposition something, you can take out your whip stitches and start again. I'm fine with the way that looks, so I'm gonna make a little knot here on the end. Just do a second one for extra security. Whether you do one or two is up to you. Again, this is really bulky yarn, so the density of the yarn tends to I think keep everything squished and kind of compacted so it doesn't slip out as easily. And then weave in this end. Then you would sew on the other three limbs in the same way. Next step, I'll sew on the tail. You can pick whichever end of the bear you wanna be the head or the tail. And now that I have these back legs sewn on, I can more easily see where I want the tail. And you can either eyeball what the center is or you can count the stitches. If you're a counter, the tail has nine stitches. The edge of this body has 27. So if you do the math, you want nine stitches on either side of the tail. So you can count one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. Then I know in this next stitch is where I wanna start sewing on the tail. And I'm using whip stitches again. And because I counted my stitches, I know that one stitch on the tail can be sewn to one stitch on the body. And just work all the way down in that way so that the nine stitches of the tail are sewn to nine stitches of the body perfectly centered. Usually on the ends, I like to do one more stitch just for security, and then you can tie your knot and weave this end in. Let's talk about the head. I wanna sew the ears on last in case that seam bridges both head and body, but we'll see, we'll make that decision later. And I would center the head again and whip stitch this on. You can sew on all the facial features first if you feel like that's easier, but I like to sew the head on first, 'cause I think that just gives me a better vision of what the project will look like when it's finished. As far as the right side and the wrong side for the head, it's all the same. It's easier for me to sew from right to left. So I'm just gonna flip this over. And again, you can count stitches or you can just eyeball it. I kind of just feel like eyeballing it this time. Whip stitches again. You might wanna grab your eyes and your nose. We're gonna sew on the eyes next, but I kind of like to have all the facial features together just to see exactly where I wanna put things. And remember, we're going to stitch a mouth down here too, so you wanna make sure your nose isn't too low or you'll run out of room. Kind of arranging things here. I might grab the ears too, just so. Look at him, look how cute he is. Okay, so let's see. I might wanna move the eyes up. And this is all your preference, it's your bear. You can make 'em look like whatever you want. If you wanna use pins here for the eyes, go ahead. I usually just kind of sew one on, and then I'll know where I wanna put the other one. So I'll start with this one. And with these tiny little pieces, again when we were talking about weaving in the ends, if we sewed this with yarn, it would get really bulky and stiff. So I like to sew the eyes on with regular sewing thread. So I'd peel the back of this to the front just so I can see and attach the sewing thread. It's kind of this little loop. So I'll stick my needle through this end here to catch it. That'll be nice and secure on the back. And I'm not particular about what the stitches look like here. I guess it's sort of a running stitch. Just make sure you get through both layers. You don't have to go all the way through to the back of the head just make sure you're grabbing some of that yarn back there. And just go all the way around. The thread is so much thinner than the yarn that you really can't see any of these stitches. So even if you're a really messy sewer like I am, no one will ever know. Once you're all the way around, you can just tie this off and hide the end of the thread inside your project. And sew on your other eye. Now for the nose, let's do some positioning here. Remember, we need room to stitch a smile if that's what you wanna do. It's definitely what I wanna do. And this piece, I feel like there's enough surface here to work with to use our yarn tail instead of thread, but if you liked sewing the eyes on with

thread, you can continue that with this nose if you have black thread. And let's see, you can pin this down if you want. I'm just gonna eyeball it. And for the nose, you can seam this however you want. You can use sort of the running stitch that I was using for the eyes or you can whip stitch around. You can do a combination of both. It's totally up to you. I think for me I'm gonna whip stitch this or I guess this is also called an applique stitch if you're using the whip stitch to applique something on. As you're stitching down the different sides of this nose, remember you can always turn the project. I mean this is a big project to turn, but it just makes positioning easier if you spin the bear around a little bit. And at the end here, tie your knot. I'm just gonna do one. This is all feeling a little bit dense, so just the one knot for me, and then weave in this end. For the mouth, you can use your artistic license here. It can be maybe more like a upside down V. I'm gonna make more of a smile here. You can use tailor's chalk if you want, but I feel like it's hard to mark really bulky yarn. So just use your imagination here. I'm gonna do one curved line going like this and then another curved line going like this. And I'm just gonna use just sort of regular embroidery straight stitches here. If you're really good at embroidering, you can use whatever kind of stitching that you like. So my yarn tail is kind of on the right side, and I want it centered. So I'm just gonna weave the yarn tail through the project here so it comes out in the center. Kind of squishing it around, 'cause I felt like doing that changed the shape of the nose a little bit. And I wanna make sure everything is still flat. And then just kind of go for it (laughs). It seems a little intimidating, but if you don't like your stitches, you can always take them out and start over. Just double checking that this is as centered as I can get it. And I'm just gonna go for it. I'm always smushing my stitches around just to sort of relax the fabric, relax my stitches and see what it looks like. It's looking pretty happy and cute. So I'm gonna go ahead and tie that off and weave in my end. Just do a single knot and then weave. And the last pieces to go on are the ears. And again, I leave them to the end, because I don't know if I want them only sewn to just the head or if I want them like half sewn to the head, half to where the body and the head join. You can kind of move these around and see what expression you want your bear to have. I'm actually kind of feeling probably most of this ear edge will be on the edge of the head, but you never know. Sometimes they skew it in more, so it's always nice to save these for the end. Let's see, where do I wanna start? I'm gonna start a little bit on the body. I'll just use whip stitches here, 'cause it's easier. And these ears don't have to be laying flat. I actually kind of like when they flip up a little bit. So don't be super stressed out about. This needs to be flat, and this needs to line up perfectly. It can have a little curvature and be a little bit vertical and that's okay. And then tie your knot. I'm gonna do two. Weave in the end, and then you can sew your other ear on as well. Ta-da! Your bear rug is finished. It looks ultra cute. And you'll be able to feel it. It's super squishy and comfy. Now that you've completed your bear, I'll show you how to make the tiger. It's actually very similar, but it has some exciting additions and twists.

Tiger

Tiger body, limbs, and tail

- The pattern for the body of the tiger is exactly the same as the pattern for the bear. I stitched up one in orange, but as you can see you can also stitch one up in purple. The arms and legs are also the same as the bear, except there's one color change and I'll walk you through that on this one. Work rows one through 10 in orange or whatever color your tiger is. A good practice for color changes is to bring in the new color on the last pull through of the old color. So let's say I wanna

complete this row 10 in all orange. I actually wanna take out the last pull through of that half double crochet. Or if you wanna take out the whole stitch and restart it, sometimes that's easier too. So here at the last pull through, I'm gonna pull through with the new color. So I like to attach my new yarn with a slip knot and pull that through. So you're still completing the stitch as an orange stitch, but the next chain will be in your second color. So chain two and turn and complete rows 11 through 12, which are just half double crochets evenly across. At row 13 we'll start decreasing again just as we did with the bear arms and legs. So that's a half double crochet, two together, crochet evenly or half double crochet evenly until there are two stitches left. And decrease again, half double crochet two together. And repeat the decreased row again. We'll decrease in the beginning, half double crochet two together until the end of the row. Well, until you have two stitches remaining at the end of the row. Decrease again. And then row 15 is chain one, turn, skip the first stitch, work two half double crochets in the next stitch. One half double crochet in the next and then an increase again. Just two half double crochets. Skip one and then slip stitch, so the last stitch. Break this off. Weave in your ends except for this long beginning tail. And then stitch on your tiger claws the same way you did the bear claw. The tiger's tail has worked up quite a bit differently than any other piece we've made so far. But you're gonna learn a lot about shaping. Grab your orange, give yourself about a 12 inch yarn tail for sewing later. And then begin with chain 11. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11. For row one, we'll skip the first two chains, half double crochet and then half double crochet in each chain till the end. At the end of row one you should have nine half double crochets. We're starting at the base of the tail and then working up toward the tip of the tail. For row two, chain two and turn. We're gonna start decreasing. So half double crochet two together. Five half double crochet evenly. One, two, three, four, five. Should have two stitches left and then work your decrease. Half double crochet, two together. For row three, chain two turn. It's basically the same as the previous row. You work your decrease, three half double crochets, just half double crocheting until you have two stitches left in the row. And then decrease. For row four we're just gonna work evenly across here. Just getting a little bit of length on our tail before we work on some very dynamic shaping. That's row four. And again, five through eight, it's just working even. Each of these rows should have five stitches across at this point. For row nine, we're gonna chain one and turn. And we're going to be working a combination of short and tall stitches and also increases and decreases. And this is gonna help create curvatures. We're gonna start with single crochet increase, that's one single crochet, two single crochets. Then work two half double crochets evenly. So that's one and then another one in the next stitch. And now we're gonna work in double crochets, but it's also a decrease, so a double crochet two together. To do that you yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. That's an almost complete double crochet. Yarn over and insert your hook into the last stitch. Yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. Now you'll complete both of those double crochets. So yarn over and pull through all three loops. You should still have five stitches in this row. One, two, three, four, five. You can see it's kind of shorter on this side, taller on this side. For row 10, you're gonna chain two and turn and just half double crochet evenly across. One, two, three, four, five. And then for rows 11 to 14, we're repeating rows nine and 10 two more times. Two single crochets in the first stitch, then a half double crochet, a half double crochet, and then your double crochet two together. Because all of our increases are on this side of the project, it's slowly pushing this edge toward the right. And because all of our decreases will be on this side of the project, it pushes this side of the project to the right as well. So we're going in sort of a this direction, and also changing the height of our stitches is helping the sort of outer edge of this tail curve around. So as

you start playing more with these increases and decreases and what sides of the project you're putting those on, you can play a lot with the direction of your project. Okay, and this is 13. So I'm going to do my two single crochets, half double crochet, half double crochet, double crochet two together. Row 14, half double crochet evenly across for still five stitches, our stitch count is not changing. For row 15 we'll chain two in turn. And what we're doing now is kind of doing the opposite of what we were doing here because now I want to change the curvature of the tail this way. So our tail is gonna kind of be this S curve. So now we're starting row 15 with our double crochet two together. Two half double crochets, one and then two. And then our two single crochets on this side, one, two. Row 16 is chain one and turn. And instead of working in even row of half double crochets, we're gonna keep encouraging the curvature. So we'll go two single crochets in this first stitch. Half double crochet, half double crochet, and our double crochet two together. So this section will be much more tightly curved than our initial section. Chain two and turn, and rows 17 to 20 you just repeat rows 15 and 16 two more times. Double crochet two together, one half double crochet, one half double crochet, and then two single crochets in the last stitch. Chain one and turn, two single crochets in the first stitch. Half double crochet, half double crochet. Double crochet two together. Chain two and turn. So double crochet two together, half double crochet, half double crochet, and then two single crochets in the last stitch. If you're feeling a bit lost about where you are in the pattern, you can always count your rows just to make sure. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. Row 20 is chain one and turn. Two single crochets in the first stitch. Half double crochet, half double crochet, double crochet two together. For row 21, chain two and turn. And we're actually going to decrease the number of stitches in this row. We're narrowing the tip of the tiger's tail. So double crochet two together and then half double crochet two together. And two single crochets in the last stitch. You should have four stitches here, one, two, three, four. For row 22, you'll chain one and turn, two single crochets in the first stitch. One half double crochet, double crochet two together. Row 23 is chain two and turn, double crochet two together, half double crochet. Then two single crochets in the last stitch. Row 24, just a repeat of row 22. So we'll chain one and turn, two single crochets, a half double crochet, and then your double crochet two together. Row 25, chain one and turn. This is the last row. We're gonna create a rounded top here. Skip one, work two double crochets in the next stitch. It's one and then two. And then slip stitch in the last stitch. And we can break this off. Gonna smooch this out, flatten it out and look how cool that is. It's pretty wild that you can create so much shaping just from working in rows.

Tiger head and face

- The tiger's head and face also share a lot of similarities with the bear's head and face. The eyes are exactly the same. So make two more eyes. The nose is also very similar to the bear nose. You begin with the bear nose pattern and then you switch colors to orange, and just work three rows of half double crochet evenly, and it creates this shape. The head pattern is exactly the same. You just need to begin with your cream color for five rows, switch to orange, and then complete the rest of the head pattern. The ears are different. They are little triangles, instead of little half circles. So I'll show you how to make one of those. Get your orange yarn, put on your slip knot to begin chain two. One and two. For row one, you'll skip the first chain from your hook, and then two single crochets in the second chain. There's one, and then two. For row two, chain two and turn. And then work two half double crochets in each stitch. There's one, two. And then one and two. For row three, chain three, one, two, three, turn. And in this first stitch, work a double crochet and a half double crochet.

There's your double crochet. In the same stitch, half double crochet. Two single crochets evenly. There's one, two. And then in the last stitch work, a half double crochet and a double crochet. And the reason why I have the longer double crochet on the outer edges of that increase is because, sometimes when we make a triangle, if the stitch is too short the triangle gets a little smooshy in the corner. But if I add a taller stitch, it can stay a little bit pointier, and you can experiment with that too. But having that taller stitch on the edges makes my triangle a little bit more triangular. You could stop here. This is a perfectly fine triangle. But I also like to work a round of single crochets just to give my triangle a nice border. We'll chain one. Slightly rotate your work and we're gonna work along the edges of the rows we just crocheted. For me, that ends up being five single crochets. If that's a slightly different number for you, that is totally okay also. One, two, three. It's actually not, it's four for me. It's four for me today. That still looks nice and even to me. If it ends up being five for you, that's all right also. Just try to remember or you can write down that that was four single crochets. You want your other ear to match this one. So remember, you want four single crochets along that edge. I'm at the top of the triangle now. I wanna work three single crochets in that same stitch. One, two, three. And to mirror my four single crochets on this edge, I wanna do the same thing on this edge. So one, two, three. And then the bottom edge of your ear will look really good if your last single crochet here is worked in the first double crochet of that row, which is here. I'll just make this bottom edge nice and flush. And you can break this off. We give yourself about 12 to 16 inches for sewing later. And you can weave in this other end. If you have a little hole up here at the top from working your three single crochets, it's a good opportunity to seam that up as well. And then make your second ear.

Tiger stripes

- What's a tiger without its stripes? I'm gonna show you how to make four different kinds of stripes. In the pattern they're listed as small stripe, big stripe, small V and big V. Let's start with the small stripe. Grab your black yarn and we're going to begin with chain five. Slip knot, and then one, two, three, four, five. It's just one row for this pattern. Skip the first chain, slip stitch in the next chain and then single crochet, another single crochet. And then the last chain half double crochet and that's it. It creates this little triangle. Break off. You're not going to leave a tail for sewing. We're gonna weave in both of these ends because I prefer to sew on all the stripes with sewing thread. And since this is a tiny piece and I don't get super particular about how many times you go back and forth with these tails, 'cause this piece will just get super dense so you can sort of play with what you think looks good and feels good. I'm just gonna pass that through once and then give it a trim. And if there are any hole-y spots, like that looks kind of loose, you can use these tails to kind of weave through those open areas. And again, don't pull your tails too tightly 'cause you don't wanna warp the little triangle shape that you just made. You'll wanna make 25 of these small stripes. The big stripe is similar, it's just a bigger triangle. We will start with chain eight, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. Skip the first chain and then slip stitch in the next. And then we'll work two single crochets evenly, one, two, and then two half double crochets evenly, one, two. And then two double crochets. And break off and weave in both of those ends. And you'll want six of these big stripes. Moving on to the Vs, this is the small V. Start with chain 18. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Again, this just is one row. And we'll begin with skipping the first chain, then work a slip stitch, three single crochets evenly, one, two, three. And then two half double crochets, one and then two. And then two double crochets, one, two. And in this next chain we wanna make sure to work in two loops of the chain. Normally I just work in one. This time I

wanna work in two just to make sure I don't make an extra big hole. We're going to work more than one stitch in this chain to help make a point at the tip of our V. So in this next chain, in both loops work a double crochet. Picking up two loops, double crochet, and then chain one. And then double crochet in the same stitch. And then we'll do a mirror image of how we did the first side of the V. You're gonna work two double crochets. There's one and then another one in the next chain. And then two half double crochets. Three single crochets, one, two, three. And in the last chain, a slip stitch. Let's check out the shape of this V. Looking pretty good. And then you go ahead and weave in these ends and you'll need three of these small Vs. For the big V, you'll start with chain 34. Three, four, five, 31, 32, 33, 34. Skip the first chain work, your slip stitch and then four single crochets, one, two, three, four. And four half double crochets. one, two, three, four. And then seven double crochets. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. We're at the tip of the V so remember to work in two loops of your chain. Double crochet. Chain one and double crochet in the same chain. And then seven double crochet. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. And four half double crochets. Three, four. Four single crochets. One, two, three, four. And in that last chain finish with slip stitch. Break off, weave in both of those ends, and you'll just need two of these. So go ahead and make one more big V. You've finish crocheting all the tiger pieces and now it's time to put them together. I think it's a good idea to lay out all of your pieces first. And if you want, once you've decided where everything goes you can use pins to secure everything down. You'll also want to decide whether you prefer the wrong side of your stitches or the right side of your stitches for the stripes to face up. Right now they're just laying a little bit more neatly when the wrong side is facing up. But normally I would stitch everything with the right side up. But again, this is your aesthetic preference and it's up to you, and just be consistent throughout the tiger. Another decision that you can make, and it can be personal to you, is whether you sew on all the limbs and the head and the tail first and then sew on all the stripes, or if you individually sew on the stripes first for each body part and then sew the body parts together. I like to sew together all the body parts first and then lay out all the stripes again and sew all those on because it gives me a more holistic view of how the whole project will look finished. And it is a little bit more fussy because you'll be having to deal with this giant piece of fabric as you sew on all the stripes. So you can sort of think about what you feel more comfortable with and what you prefer. For the head and the face, which I always like to do last, you might be seeing all these tails here on the nose part. And what I like to do is use the orange tails to sew down the orange area and then we'll use this black tail to sew around all the black parts of the nose. And remember, this tail on the bottom is for stitching the mouth just like we did for the bear. Also, before you sew everything down you get to decide what your tiger looks like. If you want some extra big stripes, you can make some of those. If you want extra big Vs and little Vs you can do that as well. So lay everything out, make some creative decisions and then seam it all together. Don't forget, we wove in both of our ends for all the stripes so we need to use sewing thread to sew these down instead of yarn. And this is what it looks like when your tiger rug is all finished. Yay! I know it was a lot of sewing, all that applique is a lot of work, but it's so worth it. This is such a striking looking rug and I know that everyone who sees it is gonna love it.

Crocodile

Crocodile body and limbs

- Let's switch to another section of the animal kingdom and start our crocodile rug. The body of the

crocodile is exactly the same as the bear and the tiger, except we're gonna add lots of fun popcorn stitches, which creates a really fun texture. The body has the same amount of rows and stitches and increases and decreases. Right here are where all the little fun popcorn stitches are. And in the pattern, I've written out where to place these, but really you can put them wherever you want. The pattern begins the same as the bear and the tiger for the first three rows, which I've completed, and the first popcorn row is row four. So let's start there. Chain two and turn. We'll start with two half double crochets in the first stitch, which is our increase. It's one, two, and then four half double crochets evenly, one, two, three, four. And you can see in the pattern, the bracketed area is where our popcorn stitches begin. To work a popcorn stitch, you're basically working three half double crochets into the same stitch. So we'll start there. One, two, three. And then you want to remove the hook. So take out the hook, you might wanna pull up some slack here so you don't rip out your stitches on accident. You wanna find that first half double crochet in that little shell, if you need to count, that's fine too, one, two, three. You're gonna re-insert your hook here into that first half double crochet of the cluster. And you can either insert from front to back, and then put the loop back on your hook, and pull through and that popcorn will be facing the front. You can also just in case you wanna play with that, you can come from back to front, put the loop back on your hook, pull through and the popcorn will be showing on the back. So whatever action is more comfortable for you, do that. If you look at pattern books or stitch instructions, they normally have you have the popcorn facing you so you would be inserting the hook from front to back, putting the loop on and pulling through. Then we'll continue with some half double crochets within that bracket. So four half double crochets, one, two, three, four. And we're repeating that sequence with the popcorn five times. So you wanna do a popcorn and then four half double crochets four more times since this was the first sequence. So we'll work another popcorn stitch, three half double crochets in the next stitch, which is one, two, three. Take your hook off the loop, insert your hook back into that first half double crochet from front to back. Put the loop back on your hook and pull through. And the more half double crochets you put in that popcorn stitch, the more it'll pop out and the bigger it will be. I like the more subtle look with three half double crochets, but you can certainly play with four or even five. So complete my sequence with four half double crochets. one, two, three, four, and then it's another popcorn stitch. It's one, two, three in the same stitch. Complete the popcorn. Four half double crochets, one, two, three, four. We're gonna do that sequence one more time. It's the fourth time. Popcorn. Ooh, see I almost did the the backwards popcorn, front to back, pull through. And four half double crochets. We're working one more popcorn stitch. And then four half double crochets again. And then finishing with our increase again, two half double crochets in the very last stitch. I'm gonna take a look. Some of your popcorns might need to be squished out a little bit in case they got smushed together, so you can pop those out and then continue on with the pattern. I designed the popcorns to create a grid across the body, but you can certainly play with placement and design and the pattern you'll see that all the popcorn rows are green and they show up in every fourth row, but you can also play with that cadence as well. For the crocodile's arms and legs, the pattern is exactly the same as the bear, but we're adding these fun pointy claws. You can also decide whether you want the wrong side of the last row facing up. I'm gonna start with the right side of the row facing up. You wanna grab your cream colored yarn. And we're gonna join it into the first stitch of the last row of the limb. So go ahead and join. I like to join with the slip knot on my hook and pull through. And you start with chain four. One, two, three, four. Skip the first chain from the hook, slip stitch into the next chain, and then single crochet, and then half double crochet in the last chain. You'll skip one stitch on this limb and then slip stitch to the next stitch. And you've

completed one of the pointy claws. So we're gonna make two more. And that's the sequence that's in the bracket. So chain four, one, two, three, four, skip the first chain, slip stitch, single crochet, half double crochet. Skip one stitch, slip stitch into the next. It's two, these are so cute. (chuckles) Okay, the last one is chain four. One, two, three, four, skip, slip stitch, single crochet, and then half double crochet. And this is the last stitch of the row on the limb. So I just end up slip stitching in this space right after it. And those are finished. You can break off, and weave in both ends.

Crocodile tail

- The crocodile tail is a really big triangle, so we'll be incorporating increase rows as well as popcorn rows. With your green yarn, chain three. One, two, three. For row one, skip the first two chains from your hook and then work three half double crochets in that last chain. Two and then three. Rows two and three are exactly the same. Chain two and turn and we're just working half double crochet evenly across. So no increasing. One, two, three. Chain two and turn. One, two, three. And this is basically the increase rate for the whole tail. It's one increase row and then two rows evenly. For row four, which is our increase row again, we'll work two half double crochets on this one side and then one half double crochet. It's basically working half double crochet evenly until one stitch remains. But since our row is so tiny right now, that's just one half double crochet. So in our last stitch, we'll work our other increase, two half double crochets. And then rows five and six, chain two and turn, just working evenly across, no increases. This is my other even row. There should be five half double crochets here. For rows seven through nine, you're going to work an increase row again, and then two more even rows. There's the increase. Half double crochet evenly until one stitch remains. Two half double crochets in that last stitch. And then two rows even. You should have seven stitches here at the end of row nine. And we already have a triangle shape happening here. Row 10, chain two and turn. This is an increase row as well as a popcorn stitch row. So let's start with our increase. Two half double crochets in the first stitch, and then work your popcorn stitch. One, two, three. Complete the popcorn. Then we're going to work half double crochet evenly until two stitches remain. Here I have two left. Work your other popcorn here. One, two, three. Complete the popcorn. And then we also need to increase in this last stitch, so two half double crochets. The pattern continues in the same way with increases and popcorn stitches. Here's what your finished tail will look like. Remember the rate of increase is always the same. Every third row is an increase, and the rate of the popcorn rows is exactly the same. It's always gonna be every fourth row, so sometimes those two will coincide. Sometimes you'll just have a popcorn row. Sometimes it'll just be an increase row, but those rates of occurrence will always be the same. And the amount of stitches will always be two stitches before the popcorns with two regular half double crochets and then a popcorn, two half double crochets on each side, and then a popcorn. So there are a lot of regularities here that can help keep you on track as you make the tail. And then the very last row, row 31, is just one more increase row across the top. For this piece of the project, it can be really helpful to follow the PDF pattern just to make sure that you stay on track. Then when you're finished with the tail, you can break off and leave a yarn tail that's a little bit longer than usual, maybe 24 inches, since you have a lot of stitches to seam at the top later.

Crocodile head and face

- The last big piece of your crocodile that you have to make is the head, but you're super familiar with shaping by now, so it should be a snap. With green, begin with chain 11. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11. For row one, this is our typical increase row. We'll skip the first two

chains and work two half-double crochets in the next chain and then seven half-double crochets evenly. We're just working evenly until we have one chain remaining. And in the last chain, work another increase. Two half-double crochets. You should have 11 stitches at the end of row one. For row two, you're gonna chain two and turn and just work half-double crochets evenly across. No increasing. We're starting at the nose of the head, working up toward the top of the head. For row three, chain two and turn. This is going to be the only popcorn row of the head. We're using the popcorns to create some little nostrils. So two half-double crochets, evenly. One and then two. And then work your popcorn stitch. One, two, three. Complete the popcorn and then five half-double crochets evenly. One, two, three, four, five. And then another popcorn. It's one, two, three. Complete the stitch. And then finishing with two half-double crochets evenly. For row four, chain two and turn. And this is one of our very familiar increase rows. So two half-double crochets in the first stitch. Half-double crochet evenly until you get to the very last stitch where we will work our second increase. So the last stitch. Two half-double crochets right in there. And at the end of row four, you should have 13 stitches. And rows five through six are just working evenly across. For rows seven through 15, you're repeating rows four through six three more times. So that would be an increase row and then two rows worked evenly. This is what your piece looks like after row 15. For rows 16 through 18, you're gonna repeat row four three more times. So that's an increase row. And then for rows 19 through 21, you're just working evenly across. Here's the head with row 21 complete. You can see our rate of increase here widened out the top of the head and then our even rows straightened that edge off. We're gonna start decreasing now. For rows 22 to 25, the pattern is the same. Chain two and turn. We'll start with our decrease which is half-double crochet, two together. And then half-double crochet in all the remaining stitches. We're only decreasing on one side per row. Remember, rows 23 through 25 are exactly the same as row 22. We'll start with your decrease, half-double crochet two together, and then half-double crochet evenly across. Row 25 is your last row. You should have 21 stitches. You can break off, giving yourself about an 18-inch yarn tail for sewing later. And then I happen to have some other ends to weave in. So if you do too, weave all those in. Your crocodile's head could be finished right now, but I like to add some teeth. They're fun to make and they also provide a fun color contrast. I have the right side of my head facing up. I know it's the right side, because I can see the nostrils down here at the bottom. And you can really start the teeth wherever you want on the head. I like to start around row 15. So I'll count those. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. So right about here. It's kinda right before these increases start. So you can join by sticking your hook in. I'm gonna rotate this so it's easier to work with. Get your cream-colored yarn. You can join with a slip knot or not. It's up to you. I'm gonna chain one just to complete that join. And then slip stitch in the next space over. You will sort of have to eyeball where to put your hook because you're working on the edges of your rows. So one slip stitch. And I provide a pattern for a big tooth, which is the same as the claw, and a small tooth. And I wrote out how I like the big tooth and the small tooth to alternate. But you can also decide whether you want all small teeth, all big teeth. It's totally up to you, but I'll show you the way that I like to do it. So we'll start with a small tooth. And the pattern for that is chain three, one, two, three, skip the first chain from the hook, and then slip stitch. And then single crochet in the last chain. And then you want to slip stitch to the next space here. And I kinda determine that by, I can see, like, what is the length of the bottom of this tooth. And I kinda wanna anchor my hook that same distance back on the head. And that doesn't have to be precise. It's just, if you're trying to figure out where to put that slip stitch, that can be a good guide. And then I will work two slip stitches. That first slip stitch counts, for me, as part of the pattern of the tooth. So the small tooth complete includes that slip stitch. So

we're going to work two more additional slip stitches to move down the head. So we'll go one. And then two. Then we'll work a big tooth. Again, that's the same as the claw. Chain four. One, two, three, four. Skip the first chain, slip stitch, single crochet, and then half-double crochet. You can flip your tooth around here, kind of figure out where it might anchor on the head. And finish the tooth with a slip stitch. And then I'll slip stitch two times again. This whole thing is my motif, this small tooth, two slip stitches, the big tooth, two slip stitches. I'm gonna do that one more time and then work another small tooth. And that should get me pretty close to the end of this edge. So there's the small tooth. And anchor that down. It's a bit far. I think we're gonna need to get that a little closer. Two slip stitches, one, two. Big tooth. One, two, three, four. Slip stitch, single crochet, half-double crochet. Anchor down your big tooth. And then two slip stitches, one, two. Then we'll do one more small tooth. Chain three, slip stitch, single crochet, anchor it down. One more slip stitch. We're really at the end here. That worked out pretty well. If you find that you have more room, you can always work one more tooth or a couple extra slip stitches. It'll still look really cute, so don't stress out too much if your teeth don't end up exactly where mine did. So we'll rotate the head And work on this bottom edge here. Gonna work one more slip stitch just to anchor myself into this corner. And then work a small tooth. One, two, three. Slip stitch, single crochet. I'm going to skip one space here and then anchor my tooth down. Work one more slip stitch. And then another small tooth. One, two, three. Slip stitch, single crochet. Skip one, anchor it down. I'm about halfway across the bottom now. One more slip stitch and a small tooth. Skip a space, anchor it down. One more slip stitch. A small tooth. And I don't really have another stitch to skip before anchoring it, and that's okay. Just anchor it where you feel like it looks good. Usually around this corner precision is not important. It'll still look like it's kind of finishing at the end of that edge. And rotate your piece again. And whatever you worked down here, just mirror that on this side. And two slip stitches. Anchor that down. Two more slip stitches. One, two. And also, if you're like me and you want both sides to be really symmetrical, you can keep rotating your piece and kinda checking. Like this tooth is a little lower on the head than this tooth. So I might undo this one, and work another slip stitch before starting the small tooth. So you can keep alternating your small teeth, your two slip stitches, and your big teeth and kinda keep checking and seeing if they're all lined up. If you don't care if they're all lined up, then don't worry about it. Just crochet away. But if you're a little bit more particular just keep checking and adjusting and adding maybe extra slip stitches here and there. And take this out. Do one more slip stitch and see what that looks like. See that looks a little bit more lined up on either side of the nostrils, so I'll just continue forward. Then we'll break off. You want to weave in your two cream-colored ends. And then don't forget to make two eyes. I whip stitched the limbs and the tail and the head, just like with the bear. You wanna make sure you sew on the limbs so that all the claws are either facing right side up or wrong side up. I would suggest just picking what you like best as far as the aesthetics, and then being consistent. And remember, we sew on the eyes with sewing thread. These rugs are so cozy. They would also make really cute throws. You've had so much practice with shaping. I encourage you to play with your increases and decreases and create your favorite animal, or even a mystical creature from your imagination.