



Komodo Dragons  
By C4A Academy



<https://a-z-animals.com/media/2021/07/Komodo-Dragon.jpg>

KOMODO DRAGONS are the largest species of LIZARD in the world. They are known for their impressive size and powerful bite, which is commonly believed to deliver a TOXIC mixture of BACTERIA that can kill their prey. They are a species of MONITOR lizard, with some individuals growing up to 10 feet long and weighing up to 330 pounds. They can live 25 to 30 years. Komodo dragons were unknown by the western world until 1912.

Spell: MONITOR

TOXIC

BACTERIA

What is the largest species of lizard in the world? KOMODO DRAGONS

They can weigh up to how much? 330 POUNDS

They can live for how many years? 25 to 30

What are they known for? IMPRESSIVE SIZE, POWERFUL BITE, TOXIC BACTERIA

Komodo dragons are native to the five **INDONESIAN** islands of Komodo, Flores, Gili Dasami, Gili Motang, and **RINCA**. These islands have both forests and savanna. They are rugged and hilly and were formed from **VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS**. Komodo dragons prefer **EXTREME** heat. The island temperature is usually around 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 degrees Celsius) and very humid. Komodo dragons like to live near sources of freshwater, such as streams and rivers which provide a source of food and a place to cool off. They are good swimmers and can hold their breath underwater for several minutes.

**Spell:** **INDONESIAN**                      **VOLCANIC**                      **EXTREME**

The islands have both forests and \_\_\_\_ **SAVANNA**

The five islands are Komodo, Flores, Gili Dasami, Gili Montang, and \_\_\_\_ **RINCA**

The island temperature is usually around \_\_\_\_ **95 DEGREES (35 DEGREES)**

They like to live near a source of freshwater such as a \_\_\_\_ **STREAM, RIVER**

Do you like your house to be hot, cool, or cold?

Komodo dragons have a **DISTINCTIVE** appearance that sets them apart from other lizards. They have long tails, sharp claws, and large, flat heads, with powerful jaws. Their skin is rough and **SCALY**, and they have a row of spiky scales down their back. They are usually a yellowish-brown color with dark brown stripes or spots, which helps them blend into their **SURROUNDINGS**. They have a long tongue, which they use to smell their surroundings and locate food.

**Spell:** **DISTINCTIVE**                      **JAWS**                      **SCALY**

Komodo dragons are usually what color? **YELLOWISH-BROWN**

Their stripes or spots help them blend into their \_\_\_\_ **SURROUNDINGS**

Their skin is what? **ROUGH AND SCALY**

What do they use their tongue for? **SMELL, LOCATE FOOD**

**VAKTivity: Video Kamoto Dragon hatching (.51 min.)**

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/video/superbowl-special-20/three-komodo-dragons-hatch-in-historic-first-for-australia/vi-AAWpByR>

If you had a Komodo dragon as a pet, what would you name it?

Komodo dragons are CARNIVORES and have a varied diet that includes deer, pigs, goats, birds, and smaller lizards. They are also known to scavenge on CARRION (dead animals), which makes them OPPORTUNISTIC hunters. Their keen sense of smell helps them locate food from great distances, and their powerful jaws allow them to easily overpower their prey. Komodo dragons have a slow METABOLISM and can go for long periods of time without eating. This allows them to survive in their ARID habitats, where food is scarce.

Spell: OPPORTUNISTIC            ARID            METABOLISM  
Their keen sense of smell helps them locate food from great \_\_\_\_.  
DISTANCES  
Their powerful jaws help them overpower their \_\_\_\_\_. PREY  
Komodo dragons scavenge on what? CARRION  
What else do they eat? DEER, PIGS, GOATS, BIRDS, SMALLER  
LIZARDS

The SALIVA of the Komodo dragon is home to a unique and complex COMMUNITY of bacteria. Scientists are still trying to understand the role these bacteria play in the lizard's life, but some research suggests that they may play a role in helping the Komodo dragon to kill its prey and to protect itself from INFECTION. Scientists have recently found that Komodo dragons are VENOMOUS.

Spell: COMMUNITY            INFECTION            UNIQUE  
The what is home to a unique and complex community of bacteria. SALIVA  
Who is trying to understand the role bacteria play in the lizard's life?  
SCIENTISTS  
Scientists recently found out that Komodo dragons are \_\_\_\_\_. VENOMOUS  
Would you like to see a Komodo Dragon in the wild?

“Komodo dragons have HEMOTOXIC venom, which means it affects the blood and CIRCULATORY system (which relates to the circulation of blood). The venom contains a mixture of toxic compounds that can break down blood clots, cause blood loss, and INDUCE shock. It also contains ENZYMES that disrupt the blood vessels, leading to rapid blood loss and DECREASED blood pressure.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://zoologist.com/are-komodo-dragons-venomous/>

Spell: INDUCE            DECREASED            ENZYMES

What kind of venom do Komodo dragons have? HEMOTOXIC

The venom breaks down blood clots, causes blood loss, and induces \_\_\_\_.  
SHOCK

What does hemotoxic venom affect? BLOOD, CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

Komodo dragons hunt alone. They have a highly DEVELOPED sense of smell, which helps them locate food. They will eat anything they can catch and kill. When they locate their PREY, they use their powerful jaws to grab and hold onto it. They then deliver venom and bacteria into the WOUND, which can kill the prey within a few days. This allows the Komodo dragon to eat its meal without having to fight for it or risk injury.

Spell: DEVELOPED            WOUND            PREY

Komodo dragons are solitary \_\_\_\_.  
HUNTERS

The venom and bacteria can kill the prey within a few \_\_\_\_.  
DAYS

The Komodo dragon can eat its meal without having to fight or risk \_\_\_\_.  
INJURY

They will eat anything they can \_\_\_\_.  
CATCH, KILL, GRAB, HOLD

VAKTivity: Video of Komodo dragon hunting and biting a deer. (2.28 m.)

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/science/the-real-way-komodo-dragons-kill-prey/>

What is your favorite snack?

Komodo dragons have played an important role in Indonesian culture for centuries. They are considered SACRED in some communities, and their DEPICTION can be found in TRADITIONAL Indonesian paintings and carvings. In modern times, Komodo dragons have become a symbol of Indonesia and are a popular TOURIST attraction for visitors from around the world. They are considered national treasures and are protected by law.

Spell: DEPICTION            TRADITIONAL            TOURIST

Komodo dragons are considered \_\_\_\_ in some communities.  
SACRED

They have played an important role in Indonesian culture for \_\_\_\_.

CENTURIES

Komodo dragons are considered a national \_\_\_\_.  
TREASURE

Their depiction can be found in traditional Indonesian what? PAINTING,  
CARVINGS

## What country would you like to visit?

The Komodo dragon is one of the rarest lizards in the world. There are only a few populations of these lizards remaining in the wild, and they are considered to be CRITICALLY ENDANGERED. They are listed as a VULNERABLE species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The main threats to the Komodo dragon are habitat loss, hunting, and the ILLEGAL pet trade. In some areas, they are hunted for their skin, which is used to make leather products. In other areas, they are hunted for food.

Spell: CRITICALLY                      VULNERABLE                      ILLEGAL  
Komodo dragons are considered to be critically \_\_\_\_\_. ENDANGERED  
The main threats they face are habitat loss, hunting, and the illegal \_\_\_\_\_.  
PET TRADE  
They are hunted for \_\_\_\_\_. FOOD, THEIR SKIN, SKIN

Conservation efforts are underway to protect the Komodo dragon and its habitat. Protected areas have been ESTABLISHED on the Indonesian islands where they live, and hunting is strictly REGULATED. In addition, CAPTIVE breeding programs have been established to help increase their population. Komodo dragons are truly one of a kind. It is important that we work to protect these MAGNIFICENT creatures and their habitats for future GENERATIONS to enjoy.

Spell: MAGNIFICENT                      CAPTIVE                      ESTABLISHED  
Hunting is strictly \_\_\_\_\_. REGULATED  
Breeding programs are established to increase their \_\_\_\_\_. POPULATION  
People are working to preserve the Komodo dragons for future \_\_\_\_ to  
enjoy. GENERATIONS  
Conservation efforts are underway to protect \_\_\_\_\_. THE KOMODO  
DRAGON, ITS HABITAT

What is your opinion of Komodo dragons?

*This lesson was written with the assistance of ChatGPT.*

Additional References:

<https://www.livescience.com/27402-komodo-dragons.html>

<https://zoologist.com/are-komodo-dragons-venomous/>