

Name _____



The Life Cycle of a Komodo Dragon

Komodo dragons have an incredible life cycle that begins when they hatch from eggs. Female Komodo dragons lay about 20 eggs at a time, often in burrows or mounds to keep them safe. The eggs take around 7 to 8 months to hatch. When the baby Komodo dragons, called hatchlings, emerge from their eggs, they are small, about 16 inches long, and weigh only a few ounces.

In the early stages of life, hatchlings are very vulnerable to predators, including adult Komodo dragons. To stay safe, they often climb trees where they can find food like insects and small animals while avoiding danger. They live in trees for the first few years of their lives.

As they grow larger, young Komodo dragons begin to spend more time on the ground. They start hunting larger prey, such as birds, rodents, and reptiles. At around 5 years old, they can reach lengths of up to 6 feet and weigh about 70 pounds. During this time, they become more skilled hunters and rely on their powerful bite and venom to catch prey.

Komodo dragons reach adulthood around the age of 8 to 10 years. Fully grown adults can measure up to 10 feet long and weigh over 150 pounds, making them the largest lizards in the world. Adult Komodo dragons are apex predators, meaning they are at the top of the food chain in their environment.

Komodo dragons can live up to 30 years in the wild. They play an important role in their ecosystem by controlling prey populations and keeping the environment balanced.