

Name _____



The Mighty Komodo Dragon

The Komodo dragon is the largest living lizard on Earth. It can grow up to 10 feet long and weigh over 150 pounds! These giant reptiles live on a few islands in Indonesia, including Komodo Island. They are powerful hunters with sharp claws, strong legs, and a long, forked tongue that helps them smell their food.

Komodo dragons are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They can hunt large animals like deer, pigs, and even water buffalo. They have a special way of finding their prey. After biting an animal, the Komodo dragon releases venom from its mouth. This venom makes the animal very weak. If the prey escapes, the Komodo can follow it for miles using its amazing sense of smell until the animal becomes too tired to run away.

These lizards are also known for their tough, scaly skin, which protects them from injuries and other predators. Their skin is covered with tiny bones called osteoderms that act like armor. Although they are fierce hunters, Komodo dragons also eat dead animals they find. This helps keep their environment clean by getting rid of rotting meat.

Komodo dragons are solitary creatures, meaning they like to live alone. They only come together when it is time to eat or when they are ready to mate. Female Komodo dragons lay about 20 eggs at a time in a hole in the ground. The mother covers the eggs with dirt to keep them safe. After about eight months, the eggs hatch, and the tiny dragons must fend for themselves. Baby Komodo dragons often climb trees to stay safe from predators, including adult Komodo dragons who may try to eat them!

The Komodo dragon is a fascinating animal that has survived for millions of years. It is an important part of its ecosystem and a reminder of how unique wildlife can be.