

Name _____



How Does a Komodo Dragon Move?

Komodo dragons are powerful reptiles with unique ways of moving. They cannot fly, but they are excellent runners and swimmers. These giant lizards use their strong legs and muscular tails to travel across their island habitats.

Komodo dragons can run surprisingly fast for their size. They can reach speeds of up to 12 miles per hour in short bursts. This speed helps them chase prey during a hunt. However, they cannot maintain high speeds for long, so they often rely on ambush tactics instead. Komodo dragons use their powerful limbs to launch forward when they see an opportunity to catch prey.

Komodo dragons are also capable swimmers. They can cross between nearby islands using their powerful tails to propel themselves through the water. Though they do not swim often, this skill allows them to search for food in different areas.

Young Komodo dragons are excellent climbers. They use their sharp claws to grip tree trunks and climb to avoid predators. As they grow larger and heavier, climbing becomes difficult, and they spend most of their time on the ground.

Another interesting feature of Komodo dragons is their ability to move stealthily. They often creep slowly and quietly when stalking prey, blending into their surroundings until they are ready to strike. This combination of speed, swimming ability, climbing skills, and stealth makes the Komodo dragon a top predator in its environment.