

Name _____



The Thick-Skinned Komodo Dragon

The Komodo dragon is a massive lizard with unique features. It can grow up to 10 feet long and weigh over 150 pounds! These reptiles have rough, scaly skin that is usually grayish-brown, which helps them blend into their surroundings. Komodo dragons have long, muscular tails and strong legs with sharp claws for hunting. One of their most fascinating features is their long,

forked tongue, which helps them smell food from far away.

These lizards are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They hunt animals like deer, pigs, and even water buffalo. After biting their prey, Komodo dragons release venom that makes the animal weak. If the prey escapes, the Komodo dragon can follow it for miles using its sharp sense of smell until it collapses.

Komodo dragons also have thick, scaly skin that protects them from injury. The skin contains tiny bones called osteoderms that act like armor. Despite their strength, Komodo dragons sometimes eat dead animals they find. This helps keep their island environment clean.

Komodo dragons are solitary animals, meaning they prefer to live alone. They only gather when it is time to eat or mate. Female Komodo dragons lay about 20 eggs in a hole, covering them with dirt for protection. After hatching, baby Komodo dragons climb trees to avoid being eaten by predators, including adult Komodo dragons.

Komodo dragons are amazing creatures that have lived for millions of years. Their size, strength, and hunting skills make them one of the most fascinating reptiles on Earth.