



PHOTO OF A KOMODO

An activity about the Komodo dragon



GRADE 4

MATERIALS

- clipboards

KEY WORDS

- predator
- ectothermic
- prey

STANDARD

- SCI.4.3.3

OBJECTIVE

- Students will learn about the world’s largest lizard, the Komodo dragon.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The Komodo dragon lives on several small islands in the country of Indonesia. It is named after Komodo Island, where it can be found in the wild. Its habitat includes grasslands and open forests near water.
- The Komodo dragon is a carnivore and is the largest of all lizards. Their saliva is toxic and can cause infection in a bite victim.
- Komodo dragons are fast-moving predators that are good climbers and swimmers. They hide and ambush their prey. Along with its dangerous bite, a Komodo dragon is capable of lashing its tail and causing serious injury.

PROCEDURE

- Have students complete the worksheet about Komodo dragons. While at the zoo, have them observe the Komodo dragon and look for evidence of the traits and actions that are on the worksheet.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Have the class compare their answers with a neighbor and discuss any answers that might be different.

ANSWER KEY

ABBABB A ; MSBMSB ; NNLNNL ; rTRrIR ; OMOMO ; KKKIOKKKIOK
 LSOSLSO ; MRMLRMRMLR ; DIMEDIME

Puzzle: ISOLATION

EXTENSIONS

- Discuss positive and negative feelings about predators. What are students’ attitudes? Discuss the same issue after your zoo field trip. Have their attitudes changed at all?
- Have each student assume the identity of a specific predator. Write a diary entry for one 24-hour period in the life of each predator. Students should describe where each animal might spend its day, what it hunted, how it hunted, whether it was successful in its hunt, or if it remained hungry, etc. Encourage students to “become” predators that they don’t particularly like, such as snakes or spiders. Some students may even decide to be a particular prey.





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Name _____

The Komodo dragon, which grows to a length of 10 feet, is the world's largest lizard. It is found only on some small islands in Indonesia, where it is the top predator.

Draw a line to match the Komodo's traits on the left with its actions on the right.

Traits

- ectothermic (cold-blooded)
- long, forked tongue
- powerful tail
- large, powerful claws
- scaly, greenish skin

Actions

- weapon to kill prey
- camouflage
- sleeps at night
- smells prey
- climbs trees

Look at the patterns below. Which letter would go in the blanks and continue the patterns? Write the letter that comes next on each line. Then put the letters in the right order to answer the question "What factor causes so many unique animals (like the Komodo dragon) to develop on islands?"

A B B A B B ____

K K K I O K K K ____ O K

M S B M ____ B

L S O S L S ____

N N L N ____ L

M R M L R M R M ____ R

r T R r ____ R

D I M E D ____ M E

O M O M ____

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

