

Animals We Love:

KOMODO DRAGONS

Recommended for primary school children

Let's learn more about Komodo dragons:

- Komodo dragons are the largest living lizards. They can weigh over 100kg and grow longer than 3 metres.
- They flick their long, forked tongue out constantly to pick up scent particles in the air. They then use the Jacobson's organ on the roof of their mouth to analyse the information and locate prey and carrion (decaying flesh).
- They hunt by ambushing prey, which include deer, pigs, and even water buffalos. Adults prey on young dragons. To stay safe, the little ones live in trees.
- Komodo dragons produce a venom that causes excessive bleeding. Their saliva contains some 60 types of bacteria. Once bitten, their prey has little chance of survival - even if it escapes, it will eventually die from bleeding and infection.
- Komodo dragons are sometimes mistaken for Malayan monitor lizards, which are a common sight in Singapore.



Use the See-Think-Wonder Thinking Routine* to start a conversation with your child

*Adapted from Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education

SEE

- What are the similarities and differences between your body and that of the Komodo dragon?
- Create a riddle using what you can observe about its body parts.
- Think of words to describe the Komodo dragon and challenge family members to come up with the most number of adjectives for the reptile.

THINK

- If you can touch the Komodo dragon, how do you think it might feel like?
- What do you think it might use its sharp claws for?

WONDER

- I wonder why Komodo dragons are threatened in the wild.

Activity Time!

Blind Drawing

- Get a one family member to join you for this activity. Visit [Singapore Zoo's web page on Komodo dragons](#) to select a photograph of the Komodo dragon and describe it, down to the smallest detail, to the other player(s).
- Take turns to describe and blind-draw different photographs of the Komodo dragons on our web page.

Bonus Challenge: Complete this activity within one minute.



Be a Documentary Narrator

- Watch the [video](#) and observe the Komodo dragon moving through its habitat. What does the Komodo dragon look like? How does it move? Where is it going?
- Play the video clip again. Take turns to role-play as documentary narrators for the video clip. Try to write a short script before you narrate.

