

Year 3 Non-Chronological reports

Model text

What is a Komodo dragon?

Dragons walk the earth. Komodo dragons, that is. Komodo dragons are **reptiles** and are part of the group of lizards that are called monitors. Komodo dragons are the world's biggest and heaviest lizards.

What does a Komodo look like?

Komodo dragons are large, heavy lizards with tough, scaly, brown skin. They have long bodies, powerful legs, strong claws and a muscular tail. They have a long, forked tongue that they flick in and out to pick up the **scent** of their prey. A full-grown adult can grow to 3 metres long and weigh around 70 -90 kilograms.

What does a Komodo dragon like to eat?

Komodo dragons are **carnivores** and they mostly eat dead meat but they can hunt too. They will hunt goats, deer and cattle. Komodo dragons use their forked tongues to track the smell of their prey. The **saliva** of Komodo dragons contains so much **bacteria** that it is a lethal weapon in itself. A dragon can poison its prey with one bite.

Where do Komodo dragons live?

Komodo dragons live on the island of Komodo in Indonesia, and on other small islands nearby. They like a hot **climate** and they sometimes dig **burrows** to sleep in and keep warm at night.

Did you know?

They have around 60 shark-like, **serrated** teeth. Also, it is thought that the legend of fire-breathing dragons was inspired by the forked yellow tongues of the Komodo dragons.

Shocking facts!

Komodo dragon females will dig a hole in the ground for a nest and lay around 30 eggs. She lies on the nest to keep them warm but once the babies hatch, they have to run away to hide in the trees from **predators**. This includes other dragons, as even their mother might eat them! They can only come down when they are around 4 years old and are big enough to protect themselves.