

Komodo Dragon Facts

(August 2019)

What do you know about Komodo dragons? There are a number of facts about them. For example, they are the biggest lizards in the world and can grow up to 10 feet long and weigh up to 150 pounds. However, many Komodo dragon facts are just tall tales, so it is difficult to tell the real from the fake, but this list could help you do just that.

Komodo dragons only dwell on the Indonesian islands of Komodo, Rinca, Flores, and Gili Montang, but they are transplants from Australia. They left the Land Down Under to travel to their current home. Some Komodo dragons did stay behind only to vanish from the continent 50,000 years ago, right after humans landed. Today, Komodo dragons are at risk of going extinct.

Komodo dragons are scary, and their bite is also very toxic. Until 2009, their bite was said to be a risk because their mouths are full of bacteria. After all,

they snack on rotting flesh. This is not the case, though. Komodo dragons inject venom into their victims, but they do not infect them. They are one of the only lizards on the planet to do such a thing.

It is said that the Komodo dragon is the inspiration for the film “King Kong.” A man named W. Douglas Burden went to Indonesia to collect a dozen Komodo dragons for the American Museum of Natural History. Burden wrote about his visit and called it *Dragon Lizards of Komodo*. It is the basis for “King Kong.”

Komodo dragons are big, and they can eat 80% of their weight in one sitting. After such a big snack, Komodo dragons like to sit in the hot sun. This helps them vomit up a gastric pellet. It consists of fragments of horn, hair, and teeth.

Komodo dragons are a bit scary. However, they are also sweet—sometimes. Captive dragons play with shovels, shoes, and frisbees. Their antics are much like the antics of a pet cat or dog.

Komodo dragons are big, toxic, and they snack a lot on rotten things, but they also have a soft side. They will play tug of war with you and bite your shoelaces. However, we do not recommend getting close enough to find out if this last fact is true or not.

Teacher Resources

Text Easability Scores

If you would like to measure the text easability scores of this passage, please follow the directions below.

1. Visit the Coh-Matrix Text Easability Assessor website at <http://tea.cohmetrix.com/>. If you do not already have a login and password, create one. It is free and easy to sign up for access to the website.
2. Once you have created an account and sign in, you will be taken to a page with an empty, white text box. Copy and paste the text from this passage into the empty, white text box. Make sure you are only copying and pasting the body of the passage. Do not include the title, date, or any of the resources present in the passage.
3. When you have pasted the passage into the text box, click on the red button beneath the text box that says "Analyze." There will be a short delay and after a few seconds, you will see a bar graph appear to the right of the screen.
4. The bar graph will give you the percentages for several text characteristics including: narrativity, syntactic simplicity, word concreteness, referential cohesion, and deep cohesion.
5. Below the bar graph, the Flesch Kincaid Grade Level is also included for your benefit.
6. Lastly, a paragraph is provided that explains the meaning of the measurements of the text characteristics for your particular passage.
7. Once you have completed measuring your passage, you can click on the "Clear" button below the text box and measure another passage, if you wish.

This text passage is archived under *Animals*.

Please note: this non-controlled readable text passage features a ***description text structure***. As such, it is written to be ***at least 80% decodable at Substep 3.3***. A specific decodability score is listed below.

- This text passage is 80.06% decodable at Substep 3.3