

Animals We Love:

KOMODO DRAGONS

Recommended for preschoolers

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

- Look at the Komodo dragon in the photograph. Name the different body parts you observe.
- Observe the posture of the Komodo dragon. See if you can pose like this dragon for 10 seconds.
- How are the Komodo dragon's limbs different from yours?

THINK

- What do you think the Komodo dragon might use its tail for?
- How do young Komodo dragons avoid danger and how do you think you can stay safe?

WONDER

- I wonder what sounds the Komodo dragon makes.

Activity Time!

Shadow Puppet

- Visit [Singapore Zoo's web page on Komodo dragons](#). Study the photographs of the Komodo dragon, focusing on its body parts.
- Create a Komodo dragon puppet by upcycling materials around the house, e.g. old socks and scrap materials.
- In a dark or dim room, use a torchlight to cast the shadow of the puppet onto an empty wall. Move the puppet and watch it come alive.

***Bonus Challenge:** Create your own short stories using the shadow puppet.*



Upload your creations and tag us @wrs.ig along with the hashtag #SingaporeZoo and #PlaytimeSZG



Komodo Collage

- Look at this photograph of the Komodo dragon and watch the [video](#). Notice its robust body, the shape and colours of its eyes, forked tongue, claws and the scales on the different parts of its body.
- Based on what you observe, draw a Komodo dragon on an A3-sized paper. Cut out shapes from unwanted magazines or newspapers to create its eyes, tongue, claws, scales etc. You might want to cut out shapes of different colours to represent different body parts.

***Bonus Challenge:** Join pieces of cardboard to create a 3m-long Komodo dragon. Paste the scales and other body parts you have created on the cutout.*



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Try out this activity when you visit us!



My Komodo Dragon



2 or more
players



Loose parts
(e.g. water bottle, pens, key)

STEP 1: Observe the Komodo dragon and its features. Describe the colour, size, shape and texture of that Komodo dragon to the person beside you. What body parts does it have?

STEP 2: Gather loose parts using items that you have (e.g. water bottle, pen, keys, cap)

STEP 3: Create your Komodo dragon on the ground around the exhibit using the loose parts collected. Add as many details as you can to your creation (e.g. eyes, mouth, tail).



Take a photo of your Komodo dragon and upload on Instagram. Tag us @wrs.ig along with the hashtag #SingaporeZoo and #PlaytimeSZG.