

Day: _____

Endangered Animals Komodo Dragon

Date: _____

A. Read the report about Komodo dragons.

The Komodo Dragon is the world's biggest lizard. It is a reptile, a cold-blooded animal. It is most active during the day. The Komodo Dragon is a fast runner; it can run up to 18 km per hour. It is also a good tree climber and swimmer.

The Komodo Dragon's scientific name is *Varanus komodoensis*. It is in danger of extinction because of habitat lost. It can live up to 20 years.

Komodo Dragons live on islands in Indonesia, including the island of Komodo. They live in hot, humid, grassy lowlands and in rainforests.

The Komodo Dragon is about 2.8 meter long, but can get up to 3 meter long and weighs up to 135 kg. It has large jaws, four short legs, and five-toed feet with sharp claws. The tail is longer than the body. It senses chemicals with a long, yellow, forked tongue.

The Komodo Dragon is a carnivore (meat-eater). It eats almost anything that it can catch, including goats, deer, wild boars, other lizards, and carrion (dead meat that it finds). The Komodo Dragon has disease-ridden bacteria in its mouth. After it bites its prey, the victim will get sick and die from blood poisoning in one or two days. The Komodo Dragon will then find the body and eat it. The female digs a hole in the ground, lays 20-40 eggs, and then covers them up with soil. The eggs hatch in about 7 months. Hatchlings eat mostly insects and live in trees.



B. Match each word below with its definition.

1. prey		organism that has just hatched from an egg
2. lizard		rotting meat
3. hatchling		wild pig
4. carrion		animal eaten by another animal
5. boar		type of small reptile with four legs and a long tail

C. Complete the vocabulary web.

