

# Komodo Dragon Fact File: Super Sentence Writers!

## Materials Needed:

- Paper (plain or lined)
- Pencil
- Crayons or markers
- Age-appropriate books or websites about Komodo dragons (e.g., National Geographic Kids, library books)
- Optional: Sentence starter strips (e.g., "Komodo dragons can...", "A Komodo dragon lives...", "Did you know that Komodo dragons...?")

## Lesson Activities:

### 1. Introduction (5-10 minutes):

- Ask the student: "What do you already know about Komodo dragons? What makes them interesting to you?"
- Briefly introduce Komodo dragons as the world's largest lizards and mention they live on specific islands.
- Explain that today, they will become a Komodo dragon expert and write down some amazing facts!

### 2. Fact Finding Fun (15-20 minutes):

- Explore the provided books or websites together. Read aloud interesting facts or guide the student in reading simplified passages.
- Focus on facts like: what they eat, how big they get, where they live, special features (like their tongue or venomous bite), how they hunt, etc.
- Encourage the student to pick out 3-5 facts they find the most fascinating. Help them jot down keywords for each chosen fact on scratch paper if needed.

### 3. Super Sentence Writing (15-20 minutes):

- Model writing a complete sentence using one fact. For example: "Komodo dragons live on islands in Indonesia." Emphasize starting with a capital letter and ending with punctuation.
- Review what makes a sentence complete (a subject/who or what, and a predicate/does what).
- Provide the student with paper. Have them write at least three complete sentences, each describing one of their chosen facts.
- Offer sentence starters if the student needs help structuring their thoughts.
- Encourage sounding out words and using best-guess spelling. The focus is on conveying the fact in a sentence structure.

### 4. Komodo Creator (10-15 minutes):

- Once the sentences are written (or while taking a writing break), have the student draw a picture of a Komodo dragon or its habitat to go with their fact file.

### 5. Sharing & Wrap-up (5 minutes):

- Ask the student to read their sentences aloud and share their drawing.
- Praise their effort in finding facts and writing complete sentences.
- Ask: "What was the most surprising thing you learned about Komodo dragons today?"

## Assessment:

- Observe student engagement during fact-finding.
- Review the written sentences for: capitalization at the beginning, punctuation at the end, effort towards forming a complete thought, and factual accuracy based on the resources used.
- Listen to the student share their facts during the wrap-up.

## Differentiation/Support:

- **Support:** Provide sentence starters; reduce the required number of sentences to one or two; scribe sentences as the student dictates them; focus on drawing and verbally sharing facts.
- **Challenge:** Encourage writing more complex sentences; ask the student to combine two facts into one sentence; have the student write a short paragraph instead of individual sentences; research a specific aspect (e.g., diet, life cycle) in more detail.