

Wildlife Encounters

An activity of "Living with dragons".

Anyone who comes face to face with a Komodo dragon in the wild would be in awe of its sheer size and majestic presence. This creature is a fearsome predator. Yet, the Ata Modo people have lived with these dragons on a small island for 2,000 years. Read "Living with dragons" (page 21, *What's Up* June 2025).

ON YOUR OWN

A. Circle the words or phrases that describe the Komodo dragon.

forked tongue sharp saw-like teeth smooth skin

short tail poor sense of smell grows up to 3 metres long

venomous glands strong immune system more active at night

able to sprint over short distances avoids entering water

sensitive forehead apex predator largest living lizard

able to change its colour omnivorous hatched from eggs

B. List how the Ata Modo people are able to coexist with thousands of Komodo dragons on a small island.

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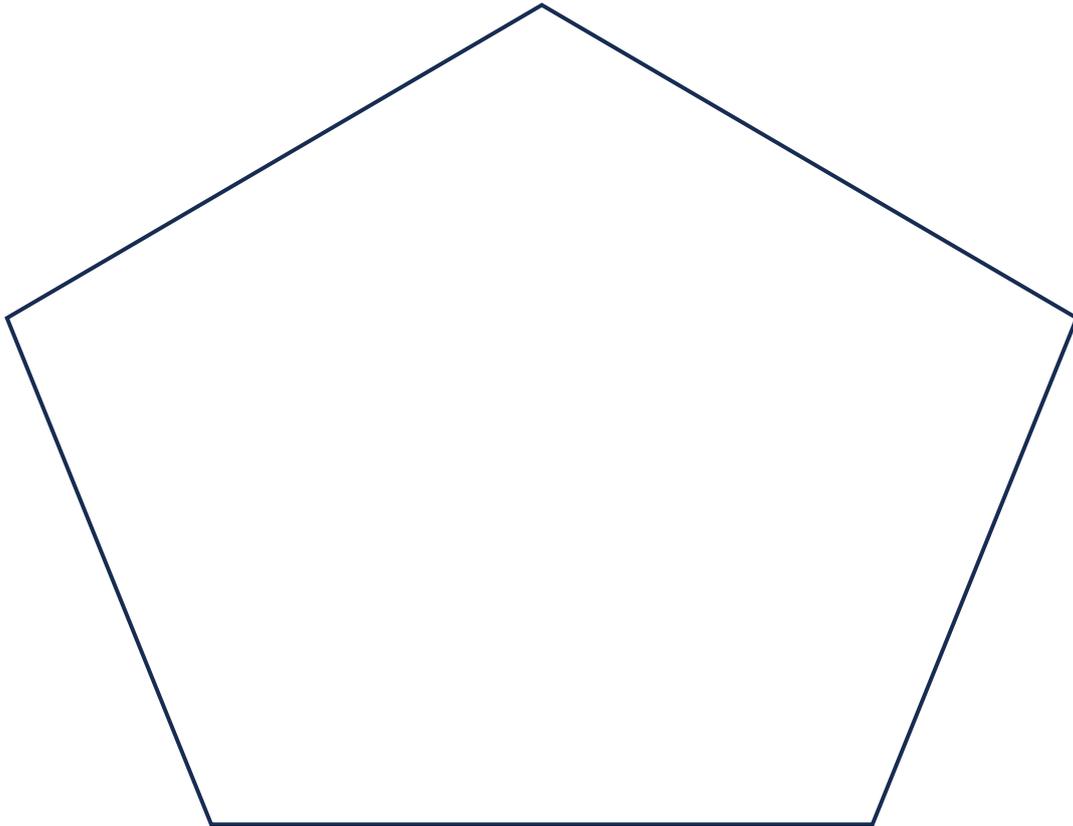
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IN SMALL GROUPS

C. To alert visitors to the dangers of getting too close to Komodo dragons, create a warning sign to be placed on the island. The sign should be brief and clear.

It should include the following:

- A brief title in large and bold font
- A pictogram (picture or symbol) that is universally understood
- A brief description of the danger
- What to do in the event of an encounter with a Komodo dragon.



D. Share with your group how you would feel if you were to encounter a Komodo dragon up close.

E. If you have encountered a dangerous animal before, share with your group how you felt and what you did to keep yourself safe.
