NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ANIMALS

Question: *What is the biggest animal you have ever seen?*

- **Complete the paragraph on the right with the words on the left.**

A adult *adj., n.*
amazing *adj.*
C catch *v.*
D discovered *v.*
E especially *adv.*
G giant *adj., n.*
gorilla *n.*
I islands *n.*
P park *n.*
protect *v.*
S species *n.*
T the wild *n.*

The Amazing Komodo Dragon

Have you ever seen a small lizard in a garden? How about a **(1)**_____ lizard? In the rainy, island country of Indonesia, there are between 4,000 and 5,000 giant lizards called Komodo dragons. They are called Komodo dragons because one of the five **(2)**_____ they live on is called Komodo Island. They are the largest **(3)**_____ of lizard in the world. **(4)**_____ Komodos are usually three meters long and weigh about 70 kg. The largest Komodo ever was an **(5)**_____ 166 kg! European scientists **(6)**_____ them in 1910, and when Hollywood producers heard about them they made a movie about a giant **(7)**_____ called 'King Kong'. The Komodos live for about 40 to 50 years. They eat almost anything they can **(8)**_____ ; for example, birds, bird eggs, monkeys, deer, and horses. Sometimes they even eat other smaller Komodos, and sometimes (but not often) even people. They **(9)**_____ like to eat dead and dying animals. There are only about 50 Komodo dragons in zoos around the world. Because there are so few of them living in **(10)**_____, a **(11)**_____ called Komodo National Park was opened in Indonesia in 1980 to **(12)**_____ them.

(about 200 words)

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.allthingsgrammar.com

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ANIMALS

The Amazing Komodo Dragon

Vocabulary Practice

- *Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.*

1.	adult	B	**A.**	a kind of very large ape with black fur
2.	amazing	_____	**B.**	a fully grown animal or person
3.	especially	_____	**C.**	to keep someone or something from being hurt
4.	giant	_____	**D.**	more than usually; special; very
5.	gorilla	_____	**E.**	natural environment or place; without humans
6.	protect	_____	**F.**	surprising; wonderful; difficult to believe
7.	species	_____	**G.**	a group of animals or plants that are similar
8.	the wild	_____	**H.**	much larger or more powerful than normal

How Much Do You Understand?

- *Write 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement.*

1. F The paragraph is about giant animals and where they live.

2. _____ There are between 40 and 50 thousand Komodo dragons.

3. _____ Komodo dragons are very large.

4. _____ In the wild, Komodo dragons live in Indonesia and Europe.

5. _____ Some Komodo dragons are so big that they are called 'King Kong'.

6. _____ People have tried to protect Komodo dragons for more than 30 years.

Discuss

- *Ask and answer the following questions with your classmates.*

1. Very few Komodos live in the wild. How does this make you feel? Why?

2. Have you ever seen a strange animal? Where? When?

3. Do you like to visit zoos? Why? / Why not?

4. What other strange and amazing animals do you know about?

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.allthingsgrammar.com

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ANIMALS

The Amazing Komodo Dragon

Grammar-in-Context

- *Complete the paragraph by circling the correct words.*

Have you ever seen a small lizard in a garden? How about a giant lizard? In the **(1)**_____, island country of Indonesia, there are between 4,000 and 5,000 giant lizards called Komodo dragons. They **(2)**_____ Komodo dragons because one of the five islands they live on is called Komodo Island. They are the largest species of lizard **(3)**_____. Adult Komodos are usually three meters long **(4)**_____ weigh about 70 kg. The **(5)**_____ Komodo ever was an amazing 166 kg! European scientists discovered **(6)**_____ in 1910, and when Hollywood producers heard about them they **(7)**_____ a movie about a giant gorilla called 'King Kong'. The Komodos live for about 40 to 50 years. They **(8)**_____ almost anything they can catch; for example, birds, bird eggs, monkeys, deer, and horses. Sometimes **(9)**_____ even eat other smaller Komodos, and sometimes (but not often) even people. They especially **(10)**_____ to eat dead and dying animals. There are only about 50 Komodo dragons in zoos around the world. **(11)**_____ there are so few of them living in the wild, a park called Komodo National Park was opened in Indonesia in 1980 to **(12)**_____ them.

1.
(A) rain
(B) rains
(C) rainy
(D) rained

2.
(A) are called
(B) called
(C) are call
(D) calls

3.
(A) the world
(B) in the world
(C) on the world
(D) in world

4.
(A) because
(B) but
(C) so
(D) and

5.
(A) larger
(B) large
(C) largest
(D) largely

6.
(A) them
(B) their
(C) they
(D) theirs

7.
(A) made
(B) make
(C) making
(D) was make

8.
(A) ate
(B) eat
(C) are eating
(D) eats

9.
(A) they
(B) theirs
(C) them
(D) their

10.
(A) are liking
(B) like
(C) likes
(D) liked

11.
(A) But
(B) And
(C) So
(D) Because

12.
(A) is protecting
(B) protects
(C) protected
(D) protect

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.allthingsgrammar.com

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ANIMALS

The Amazing Komodo Dragon

Writing and Listening Practice

- *Listen to your teacher and complete the paragraph.*

Have you ever seen a small lizard in a garden? How about a giant lizard? In the rainy, _____ country of Indonesia, _____ _____ between 4,000 and 5,000 giant lizards _____ Komodo dragons. They _____ called Komodo dragons _____ one of the five _____ they _____ _____ is called Komodo Island. They are _____ _____ _____ of lizard _____ the _____. Adult Komodos _____ usually _____ meters _____ and weigh _____ 70 kg. The _____ Komodo ever _____ an _____ 166 kg! European _____ discovered them in 1910, _____ when Hollywood producers _____ about _____ they _____ a movie about a giant gorilla called 'King Kong'. The Komodos _____ for about 40 _____ 50 years. They _____ _____ _____ they can catch; _____ _____, birds, bird eggs, _____, deer, and horses. _____ they _____ _____ other _____ Komodos, and sometimes (but not _____) even _____. They _____ _____ _____ _____ dead _____ dying animals. _____ _____ only about 50 Komodo dragons _____ zoos _____ _____ _____. Because _____ _____ so few _____ _____ living _____ _____ _____, a park called Komodo National Park _____ _____ in Indonesia _____ _____to protect _____.

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.allthingsgrammar.com

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ANIMALS

The Amazing Komodo Dragon

Writing Practice

- *Don't look at the paragraph. In your own words, write what you can remember about the Komodo dragon. Use the back of this paper if you need more space.*

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.esltopics.com

ANIMALS

- *Distribute one picture to each student. Have them research and write a paragraph about their animal. Finally, have them present their findings to their classmates.*

Galapagos Island tortoise

African elephant

North American bison

South American tree frog

Australian crocodile

Arctic polar bear

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.esltopics.com

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

ANIMALS

Title: _____

Writing Practice

- *Write about your animal. Remember to include information about where it lives, how big it is, what it eats, how long it lives, if it is dangerous, etc.*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.esltopics.com

Language Focus Present Simple Tense / Past Simple Tense
Level Intermediate to Advanced
Time Approximately 120 – 180 minutes

ANSWER KEY:

● Complete the Paragraph

1. giant
2. islands
3. species
4. Adult
5. amazing
6. discovered
7. gorilla
8. catch
9. especially
10. the wild
11. park
12. protect

● Vocabulary Practice

1. B
2. F
3. D
4. H
5. A
6. C
7. G
8. E

● How Much Do You Understand?

1. F (The paragraph is about the Komodo dragon.)
2. F (There are between 4 and 5 thousand.)
3. T
4. F (In Europe, they only live in zoos.)
5. F ('King Kong' was the name of a movie.)
6. T

● Grammar-in-Context

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. A
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. B
11. D
12. D

● Homework Idea

Choose another interesting animal and write about it.

EXPLORE on-line:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Komodo_dragon

http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/komodo-dragon/

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLIMgXv89VU

http://komodonationalpark.org/

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.allthingsgrammar.com