Travel Adventures

Komodo NATIONAL PARK

Operations with Whole Numbers



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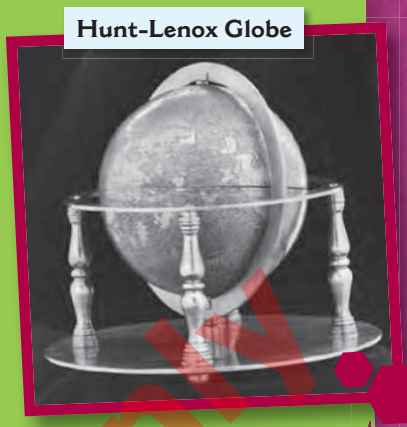
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Here Be Dragons

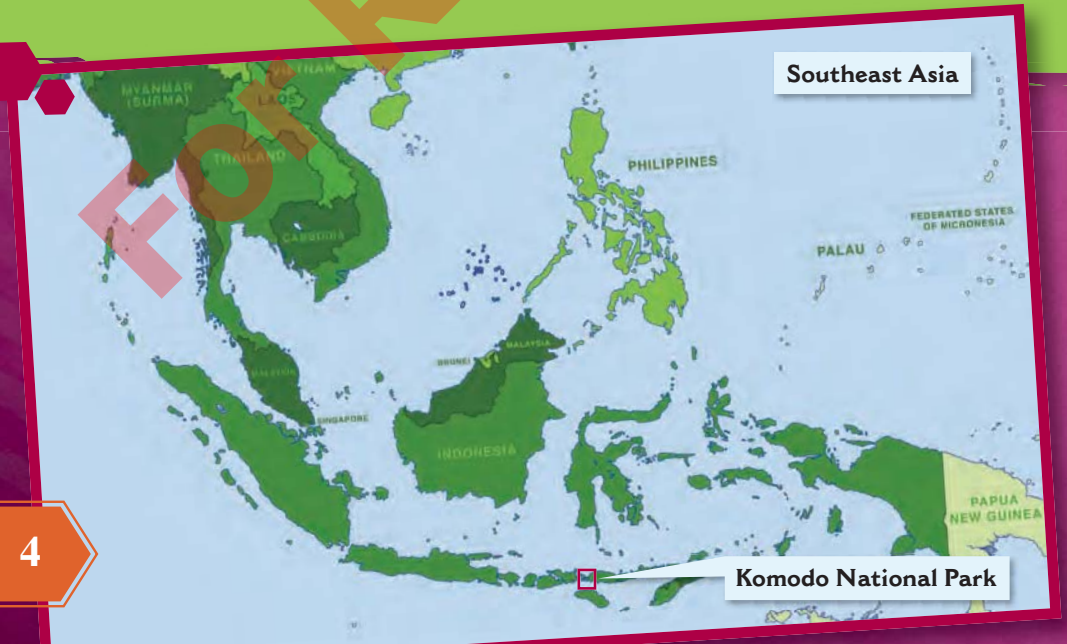

Hunt-Lenox Globe

The Hunt-Lenox Globe is a map like no other. Made in 1510, the globe features a medieval view of the world. And the globe bears an ancient warning. A Latin phrase, tucked near Southeast Asia, enchants the imagination: "HC SVNT DRACONES." *Here be dragons.*

At Komodo National Park, "Here be dragons" is a reality, not fiction. In the park's **confines** roams the Komodo dragon, the world's largest lizard.

The Komodo dragon makes a big first impression. Large, scaly, and clawed, this lizard has an unmistakable look. Yet it is not well-known. This is largely because the Komodo dragon can only be found in a tiny region of the world. Nearly the entire population of the species, up to 5,700 dragons, lives in Komodo National Park.

The park spans three **remote** islands in Indonesia. The landscape varies from corner to corner. Volcanoes, sandy beaches, and dense forests meet across the islands. Brilliant, teal water surrounds this stunning landscape. But the park's star attraction remains the same: its **titular** predator.



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LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Komodo National Park includes land and water. The land area is about 600 square kilometers. Imagine that 5,600 Komodo dragons spread out equally across the land. About how many lizards would be in each square kilometer? Explain the reasoning for your choice.



A. about 9,000

B. about 900

C. about 90

D. about 9

For review only

Meet a Dragon

"Come see the dragons" is the obvious appeal of Komodo National Park. The park has a unique claim to fame—a stunning setting crawling with the world's largest lizards.

A Quiet Sanctuary

Komodo National Park is made up of 3 major islands and more than 20 smaller islands. The large islands—Komodo, Rinca, and Padar—are a textured mix of landscapes. Every view is picture-perfect.

In March 1980, the islands were declared a national park. The park's initial purpose was to protect the Komodo species. Over time, though, the park's protection has expanded. The islands protect not only the Komodo dragon but also thousands of other unique animals and plants.



Padar Island

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Giant Lizards

The headliner of the park is still, of course, the Komodo dragon. Most visitors to the park are eager to catch a glimpse—and picture—of these rare creatures. But what exactly is a Komodo dragon?

The Komodo dragon is technically a lizard. However, this species is not your garden-variety reptile. The giant lizards that roam the park have a mix of distinct traits.



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Komodo dragons' most noticeable feature is simply their large size. The average Komodo is around 10 feet (3 meters) in length. For perspective, that's the length of one-and-a-half beds. Their long limbs are bulked with muscle, adding sizable weight to their bodies. The average adult dragon weighs around 150 pounds (68 kilograms), though some occasionally grow even bigger. The largest dragon of them all weighed in at 366 pounds (166 kilograms)!

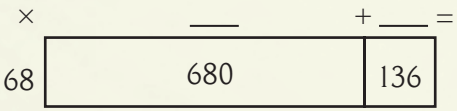
These lizards have a look that intimidates. Visitors to the park may glimpse Komodo dragons prowling low to the ground, their tails slinging from side to side. Their feet are edged with razor-sharp claws, which **complement** their razor-toothed smiles. The lizards' scales are colored a dusky gray, perfect for blending into their surroundings. These scales make up their body armor, which keeps them safe from attacks.

The Komodo dragon has a reputation as the only living dragon. This **moniker** likely stems from these lizards' most distinctive feature—yellow, forked tongues. These long tongues can taste food, as well as the air. This helps the lizards sense when prey is nearby. If the winds are on their side, the Komodo dragons' tongues can "taste" their prey's location from as far as 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) away.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Imagine that scientists study a group of adult Komodo dragons that weigh a total of 816 kilograms.

1. If each Komodo dragon weighs 68 kilograms, how many are in the group? Complete the area model to solve the problem.



2. Scientists report that there are actually 16 Komodo dragons in the group. Do these lizards weigh more or less than the average of 68 kilograms? How do you know?

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A Komodo dragon flicks its tongue.



Komodo dragon claw

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