



**Transcript for *Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor* (Knopf Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House) Preview Video**

**Preview (0:00 – 7:23)**

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I just want to remind you about tomorrow's Story Book Science here on Facebook Live at 10am. I am going to be reading the book *Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor*. This book is written by Patricia Valdez, and it's illustrated by Felicita Sala. And we are reading it with permission from Knopf Books for Young Readers, which is an imprint of Penguin Random House. So this will be the book we read tomorrow.

Now when we read about Joan Procter, we're going to read about how she was a British herpetologist from England. So what that means is she studied amphibians and reptiles because that is what herpetologists study. And Joan loved reptiles! She loved them from a very, very young age. But some people thought that young girls like Joan, that they shouldn't like reptiles. But Joan didn't really care what they thought because she was passionate about reptiles and learning about them, and she wanted to share that passion with others.

Now we're going to specifically talk about one lizard that Joan researched and studied. She researched many, many different lizards and other reptiles, but tomorrow we're going to be talking about Komodo dragons. Now Joan worked at the London Zoo in 1923. And in 1927, the first Komodo dragons arrived in Europe, and they lived at the zoo in the reptile house that Joan designed. Now this is a photo of the Komodo dragon at the London Zoo. This was one of the Komodo dragons that Joan took care of. And I wanted to show you a photo of a Komodo dragon in the wild. So there is a photo of a Komodo dragon.

Now Komodo dragons, they live in Indonesia. And Indonesia is a huge country, and it's made up of many, many different islands! So I want to show you a map of Indonesia. So here is a map of Indonesia. And a lot of these different islands are a part of that country. So we have this area. All of this is Indonesia. And of all of the islands that make up Indonesia, only five of those islands have Komodo dragons! And those islands are right here. And if we zoom in, which is up there, the five islands that have Komodo dragons are Komodo, Rinca, Gili Dasami, Gili Montang, and Flores. So those are the five islands where you can find Komodo dragons.

Now Komodo dragons are the largest living lizards that can be found on Earth today. They can grow up to be about 10 feet! And about half of that size - the length that they can grow to - about half of that is their tail! So let's look at the photo of the Komodo dragon again. So here is its tail, and here's its body. And that tail is about half the size of its body. It's also super strong! So the Komodo dragon can use it to fight. They can use it to attack prey. And it helps with how long the Komodo dragon is. Again, this is the largest living lizard on Earth today! So take a moment to look at that photo and really study just how long that tail is. Alright!

Now sometimes it's really hard for me to think about just how big a Komodo dragon can grow to be because lizards I've seen are nowhere near 10 feet. And one of the lizards that I wanted to share with you that I've seen is a Carolina anole. And I have a specimen of a Carolina anole that I want to show you. So just wait one moment while I grab that. Alright.

So here is the specimen. And as you can see, I have it in my hand. So this specimen, it's really not that big. It's very small because you can see it. It's about just a little longer than my thumb, including the tail. Now my hand is nowhere near 10 feet. In fact, it's less than one foot. So I want you to look at this specimen, this Carolina anole, and compare this size to the size of the Komodo dragon, which we know can grow to be at least 10 feet. So think about just how much bigger the Komodo dragon is than the Carolina anole. Alright?

So I'm going to put this specimen back.

Now I'm so excited to get to read and learn with you all about Joan Procter and all of the amazing things that she taught us about reptiles. One of the great things she did was also to remind us that reptiles aren't scary! They shouldn't be feared because they are so amazing. They have all of these amazing qualities.

And before I let you go, I do want to share one more thing. Joan Procter was able to study all of these amazing things about reptiles. She had reptiles as pets and she made observations about them while growing up. She read a lot of books. She went to the Natural History Museum in London to learn about reptiles. And of course, she worked at the zoo!

Now Joan was able to learn all of these things about reptiles by reading and going to museums and going to the zoo. And that was great because she couldn't go to university. And the reason she couldn't go to university was because she had a chronic health disability, and at times she had to use a wheelchair. And we'll read a little bit about that tomorrow in the book. Now when I say a chronic health disability, what I mean is that Joan had a condition that made it a little difficult for her to do everyday activities, and she was in a lot of pain. Sometimes the disability was visible. Sometimes it wasn't. But it doesn't matter if it was visible or not. It was something that lasted her entire life, and it was a very real condition she had. And she couldn't go to university because universities wouldn't support her. So she was able to learn all of these amazing things about reptiles. She was able to share all of the amazing things she learned about reptiles in a way that didn't require her to graduate from university because you don't have to go to university to learn and share amazing things! Alright?

Now the last thing I want to do is I want to ask you what you're passionate about. What things do you love learning about, and what things would you want to share with other curious people?

Alright! So I will see you tomorrow here on Facebook Live at 10am, where we'll read *Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor*. I'll see you then! Bye!