

# Platypus

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Platypus

The platypus is an egg-laying mammal found only in Australia.

Find some more information about the platypus for a short report.

Use these questions as a guide.

How would you describe the bill of a platypus?

Where does the platypus spend most of its time, in water or on land?

What does a platypus eat?

What part of its body does a platypus use to find food?

Is a platypus mainly active at night or during the day?

## Writing a Description

On a separate page, write a description of a platypus.

Imagine you are describing it to someone who has never seen one before.

What parts of a platypus remind you of different animals?

## Unbelievable Animals

When the first stuffed platypus was sent to England, many people thought it was a fraud and that it had been constructed from different animals using a duck, otter or beaver.

Create and draw your own "crazy animal" by combining the parts of at least three different animals.

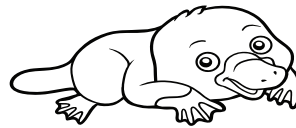


What will you call your "crazy animal"?

## Nouns

Circle the nouns in the following paragraph.

The platypus is not the only mammal to lay eggs. The echidna also lays eggs. Both animals have hair on their bodies and produce milk to feed their young. They are the only two monotremes. The eggs are unusual because they have a leathery skin, like reptiles.



## Number Crunchers

A platypus spends an average of 12 hours every day searching for food.

Is that less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day, or more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day?

Babies sleep on average for 18 hours every day.

Is that a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a day,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day, or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a day?

Children sleep on average for 9 hours every day.

Is that less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day or more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day?

Koalas can sleep for up to 20 hours a day.

Is that a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a day,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day or  $\frac{5}{6}$  of a day?

