

THE PLATYPUS



The Platypus is a very unusual Australian animal. It lives in creeks, rivers and streams. It has thick brown waterproof fur. It has webbed feet and a wide flat tail to help it swim. It has a duck bill that it uses to find food

underwater. A male platypus has a poisonous spur on its back leg.

Platypuses eat worms, shrimp and insects and can stay underwater for 2 minutes. The platypus sleeps 14 hours a day. They are mostly nocturnal but you can see them just before dark or very early in the morning.

Platypuses are egg-laying mammals. They lay their eggs in burrows on the river bank. When the babies are born they suck milk from the mother's skin. They stay in the burrow for four months.

They live for about 12 years.



The platypus is on one side of the 20cent coin. It is an endangered animal and is the state animal of NSW. The platypus was a mascot in the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

1. Where do platypuses live? _____
2. What colour is a platypus? _____
3. What do platypus eat? _____
4. When can you see a platypus? _____
5. Where do platypus lay their eggs? _____
6. How long do they live ? _____

UNDERLINE THE ADJECTIVES

1. Platypuses are egg-laying mammals.
2. Platypus have thick brown waterproof fur.
3. The duck billed platypus is an Australian animal.
4. A male platypus has a poisonous spur on its back leg.