

Animals of Australia

The Platypus

A platypus is covered with three layers of thick brown fur. Platypuses live near rivers and lakes in parts of Australia. They swim in the water and dive down to get worms from the bottom of the river.



A platypus has webbed feet and a bill like a duck's. It has a tail like a beaver's.

The females lay eggs with soft skin like a snake's and feed their young milk. They belong to the group of animals called monotremes. Monotremes are mammals that lay eggs, and feed their young on milk. The only other monotreme in the world is the Australian echidna.

The male platypus protects itself and its family against enemies with a poisonous spur on one of its back legs.



1. The platypus keeps itself warm in the water with three layers of thick brown f __.
2. A platypus uses its webbed f ___ and strong tail for swimming.
3. A platypus uses its duck-bill for getting w ____ from the mud on the bottom of the river.
4. The female platypus lays e ___ and feeds its baby on milk.
5. The male platypus protects itself and its family with a poisonous s ____.
6. Draw a picture of a platypus using brown and black.