

## The Strangest Animal on Earth

**W**hat animal has fur and gives milk to its young like a mammal, but lays eggs like a bird or a reptile? What animal has webbed feet and a bill like a duck, but has a tail that looks much like a beaver's?

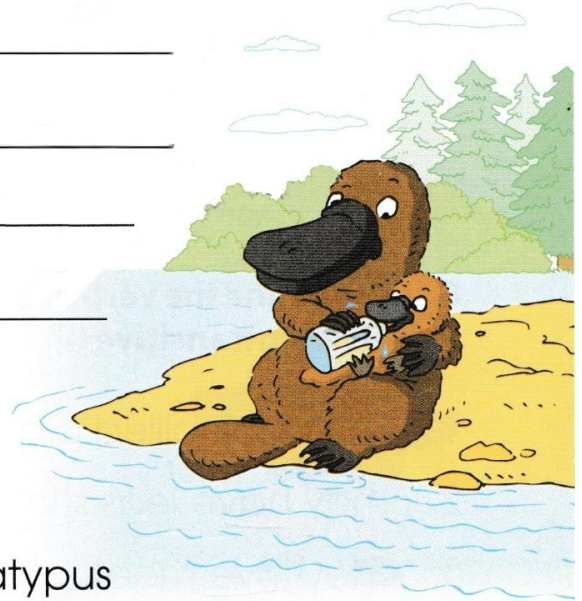
It's the duck-billed platypus, one of the strangest animals on Earth! Duck-billed platypi (the plural form of platypus) like to live in burrows near freshwater streams and ponds, and can be found only in eastern Australia and Papua New Guinea. They are about the size of a cat and weigh about three kilograms. They are good swimmers, but because their legs stick out at their sides, they walk like a lizard on land.

Duck-billed platypi like to eat meat, especially crayfish, worms, snails, shrimp, and other small animals from the water. They also eat small land rodents. Male platypi have a poisonous spike on each of their ankles which can be used to protect themselves from other animals, or to kill small animals for food. They have a lifespan of between 10 and 17 years.

This kind of animal, a warm-blooded mammal that lays eggs, is very rare. We call them monotremes. There used to be many kinds of monotremes, but they died out a long time ago. We can only see their fossils now. Today, there are only three living monotremes: the duck-billed platypus and two kinds of echidnas, or "spiny anteaters".

**A. Complete the information about the duck-billed platypus.**

1. Habitat \_\_\_\_\_
2. Size \_\_\_\_\_
3. Weight \_\_\_\_\_
4. Diet \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Lifespan \_\_\_\_\_



**B. Answer these questions.**

1. In what way does a duck-billed platypus resemble each of the following animals?
  - a. a bird  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. a duck  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. a beaver  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the poisonous spikes on the ankles of the male platypus for?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





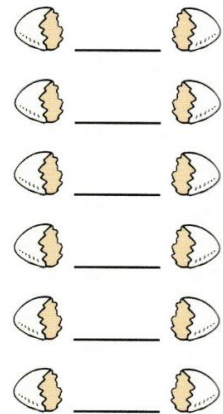
## Verbs

A **transitive verb** requires an object (the receiver of the action of the verb) to complete its meaning. An **intransitive verb** does not require an object to complete its meaning. Some verbs can be transitive or intransitive.

Examples: We sang the birthday song. (transitive)  
 ("The birthday song" is an object in this sentence.)  
 We sang loudly together. (intransitive)  
 (There is no object in this sentence.)

### C. Underline the verb in each sentence. Write whether they are transitive (T) or intransitive (I).

1. The duck-billed platypus swims well.
2. They have legs sticking out at their sides.
3. They love meat.
4. Daniel eats a lot of meat.
5. He seldom exercises.
6. He sleeps ten hours a day.



### D. Use each verb as a transitive and an intransitive verb to write sentences.

#### 1. grow

Transitive: \_\_\_\_\_

Intransitive: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. change

Transitive: \_\_\_\_\_

Intransitive: \_\_\_\_\_



## Adverbs

An **adverb** describes a verb. Most adverbs are formed by adding "ly" to an adjective.

Example: The picture shows clearly what a duck-billed platypus looks like.

### E. Complete the puzzle with adverbs formed from the clue words.

*For adjectives ending in "y", drop the "y" and add "ily" to form adverbs.*

1. steady

			A				
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

2. glad

			D		
--	--	--	---	--	--

3. heavy

			V			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--

4. special

			E					
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

5. proud

			R				
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

6. probable

			B				
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--



### F. Write a sentence of your own using each of the following adverbs.

1. softly

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2. brightly

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3. terribly

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