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# **Mystery Animal Riddle: What Am I?**





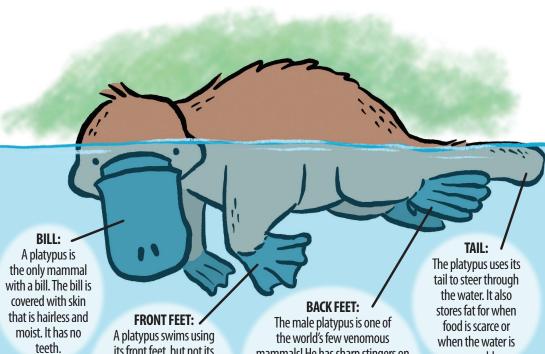




Circle every other letter to discover the mystery animal:

RDBULCNK PBJIMLKLDE RDTPSLVABT WYCPHUJS





the world's few venomous mammals! He has sharp stingers on the heels of his hind feet. With these stingers, the male platypus can sting a foe with a strong venom that doesn't kill but does cause a lot of pain.

The Commonwealth of Australia reveres this remarkable mammal so much that it honors the platypus with a place on its 20-cent coin.

very cold.

### **Dinner Dive**

Replace these missing words.

SWIMS NOSTRILS MINUTES SCOOPS BOTTOM POUCHES PONDS A platypus is a \_

feeder. It insects, worms, and shellfish in its bill along with bits of gravel from the bottom of streams and

on its bill close underwater and the animal can stay under for up to as it searches for food.

The mix of gravel and underwater critters is stored in cheek \_. The platypus to the surface and mashes the material in its pouches. It has no \_

so the bits of gravel help to "chew" their meal.



Use the code to discover

more platypus facts!

its front feet, but not its

back feet. When it gets out

of the water, the platypus

can roll back its webbed

front feet and claws pop

out to make it easier to

walk on land.

known as a

A baby platypus is

Platypuses are long-lived, surviving 20 years or more in captivity and up to 12 years in the

night underwater looking for

A platypus spends

10 to 12 hours each

A platypus spends most of its life alone. But a group of platypuses is called a



Platypuses can only be found in



Scientists have discovered evidence that shows that they first evolved more than 112 million years ago, long before the extinction of the





Create "What Am I" riddles for pictures in the newspaper. Share your riddle with a pal and see if they can guess which photo you were describing. Take turns!

### Double Double Word

A mammal that hatches from eggs? The platypus is one of two kinds of mammals

that lay eggs. The other is the spiny anteater or echidna.

Mother platypus lays her eggs inside a chamber and curls up with her eggs for about 10 to 12 days. This is a time when she really needs that fat stored in her tail!

When the baby platypus hatches, it is about the size of a lima bean.

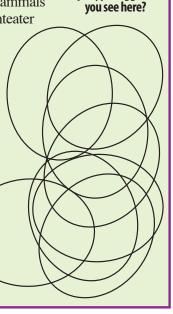
Baby platypuses stay in the nursery chamber for the first three or four months of life. Like other mammals they drink their mother's milk.

**Newspaper Creatures** 

newspaper for descriptions of houses for sale. Write a "House for Sale" ad that would appeal to a platypus and their family.

Look through the classified section of the

Standards Link: Write for a variety of audiences.



UNDERWATER **VENOMOUS PLATYPUS** POUCHES

Find the words in the puzzle. find on this page?

B B A B S G G E P V ECLAWSYLOE ALTAILALUN WSGDKGGLES

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns

**BILLED GRAVEL CLAWS BEAN DUCK** WALK

How many of them can you RETAWREDNU

NIECMTMICO KMAVYMEBHM LCIPALALEO A D U L P R L M S U

## Standards Link: Write

**MAMMAL** 

### platypus eggs do

**How many** 

**EGGS MEAL** TAIL

**MILK** 

What happens if you step on a platypus?

**ANSWER:** Flatipus!

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