

Have you ever seen this animal?

Where does it live?

What does it eat?

Can it swim?

Can it fly?

Yes, I have seen this animal in books or
on the TV.

It lives in Australia.

It is a carnivore and it eats insect larvae and
worms,shrimp,...

Yes, it can swim very well.

No, it can't fly.

Does it lay eggs?

Does it breed its eggs?

Where can we collocate it in our tree diagram?

What is it – a mammal?
a bird?

How can we show effectively information about the platypus in a visual organiser?

Yes, it lays eggs.

Yes, it “breeds” its eggs. The mother curls around the eggs.

We can collocate it in the category of the mammals.

It is a mammal.

We can make a Venn diagramm (mammals, birds, reptiles) and the platypus goes into the intersection.

Mammal Characteristics

- All mammals are warm blooded.
- Most young are born alive.
- They have hair or fur on their bodies.
- Every mammal is a vertebrate.
- All mammals have lungs to breathe air.
- Mammals feed milk to their babies.

Circle only the mammals you can find in the picture below!

Text adapted from online material by P.Rizzolli, May 2015- drawings by Google free drawings

Reptiles Characteristics

- *They are vertebrates.
- *Reptiles are covered in scales.
- *They breathe with lungs.
- *Most reptiles lay eggs.
- *Almost all reptiles are cold-blooded.

Adapted text by P.Rizzolli, drawings by Google free images

The Platypus is a National Symbol

Cross the right answer! X There could be more than one !

The platypus is a national symbol of...

- a) Austria.
- b) Australia.
- c) England.

This animal is featured on the ...

- a) European 20 cents coin.
- b) American 20 cents coin.
- c) Australian 20 cents coin.

Why is it such an important symbol in that country?

- a) Because it lives only there and it's severely forbidden to catch or export it.
- b) Because Australians think it is a cute and lovely animal.
- c) Because the platypus is a protected species in Australia and it's a very rare and unique animal.

Are there other extraordinary animals in Australia?

- a) No, there aren't.
- b) I don't know.
- c) Yes, there are : the K _____, the K _____,
the W _____ and the E _____;

Think on our Earth, think on the globe, a world map; where can you find Australia?

- a) in Europe

b)in Asia

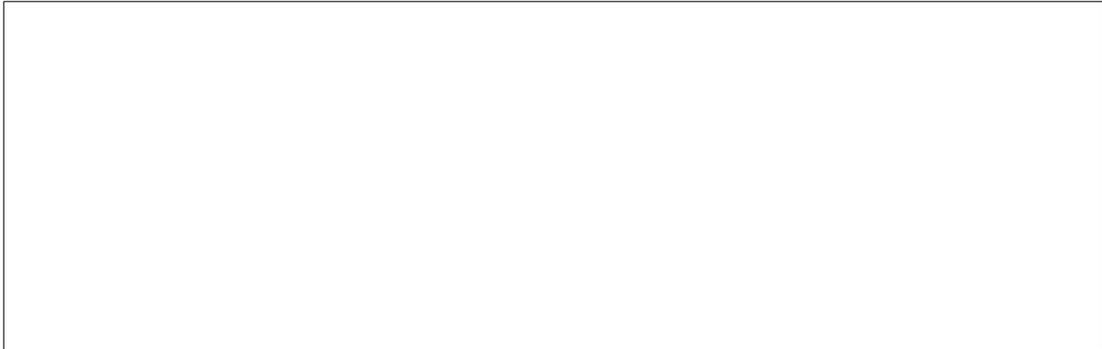
c)in Oceania (A _____,New Zealand and New Guinea)

Why do you think are there such unique animals in Australia?

Do you think that Australian animals could survive in wildness in our climate-here in Europe?

The P _____

Can you make a drawing of a platypus? Try it here!



The duck-billed platypus is a m _____ .

M _____ s are _____ that lay _____ .

A baby platypus drinks its mother's _____ .

A platypus has got features and behavior of
m _____ , b _____ and r _____ :

Mammal: _____

Bird: _____

Reptile: _____

Key words : lays eggs has got fur monotreme monotremes
eggs mammals milk gives milk birds
has got a venomous spur on foot mammals reptiles
the mother curls around the eggs Platypus