

Platypus

Website: <https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/platypus>

Live Cam: <https://www.sdzsafaripark.org/platypus-cam>

What exactly is a platypus? Is it the only animal on Earth that is part duck, part frog, and part mammal? Whatever this adorable little creature is, it is odd. When you try to visit the live camera, remember that the platypus is nocturnal, so it will only be awake at night.

- 1) Let's look at this critter before we answer questions about it. Visit the live cam. Write two sentences about what this animal looks like. Use adjectives (descriptive words). What is this animal like? (*Hint*: Large, small, fluffy, rough, ugly, cute, wet, dry)

Now visit the website. Go to this section:



- 2) What type of animal is the platypus?
- Bird
 - Magical
 - Mammal
 - Amphibian
- 3) In what country does the platypus live?
- United States
 - Brazil
 - Australia
 - Madagascar
- 4) What type of diet or food does the platypus eat?
- Carnivore
 - Herbivore
 - Omnivore
- 5) What is the platypus's habitat?
- Rivers
 - Forests
 - Swamps
 - Lakes

Go to this section: **Filling the bill**

- 6) As a mammal, what is unique about the platypus?
- Its tail
 - Its bill
 - Its webbed feet

- 7) True or false. The platypus does not have teeth.
- True
 - False
 - What's a platypus?

Go to this section: **Venomous males**

- 8) Male platypuses have venom that comes out of a spur on their hind leg. What is a spur?
- An extra finger
 - A tool that the platypus carries around
 - A spiked wheel used to get horses to run faster
 - A little spine, spike, or thorn
- 9) What happens when a platypus gets stung by the spur of a rival?
- It dies
 - It can't move for a week
 - It slows down
 - It vomits

Go to this section: **Night and day**

- 10) What does the platypus do all day?
- Plays games
 - Finds food
 - Hides
 - Builds dams

Go to this section: **At home with mom**

- 11) How many eggs does a platypus lay?
- Eggs?
 - One or two
 - Three or four
 - Mammals don't lay eggs, they make babies.
- 12) Where does the baby platypus stay for the first few months of its life?
- At a hotel
 - In the nursery burrow
 - With friends and cousins
 - In the mother's pouch, like a koala

Go to this section: **a mammal that lays eggs?**

Read about the three facts (Eggs, cheeky fellows, and coming and going). Study them!

Color in your own platypus. Don't forget to give him or her a name, age, and favorite sport!



Your animal's name _____

Your animal's Age _____

Your animal's favorite treat _____

Is your animal a bird, an amphibian, or a mammal? _____

Answer Key

- 1 This is an open-ended question. Some good adjectives are cute, wet, slippery, soft, shiny, weird, strange, duck-like, webbed, amphibious, fast, curious, fish-like, fat, slow.
- 2 C
- 3 C
- 4 A
- 5 A
- 6 B
- 7 A
- 8 D
- 9 C
- 10 C
- 11 B
- 12 B

Glossary

| | |
|--|--|
| Nocturnal (nock-turn-el) | Awake or active at night |
| Adjective (<i>add-jek-tiv</i>) | Part of a sentence that describes a person, place, or thing (Examples: Large, small, red, winged) |
| Omnivore (om-nih-vor) | Eats a mixture of plants and animals |
| Venom (<i>veh-num</i>) | It can make you sick. Toxic. Poisonous |
| Spur (<i>sper</i>) | Piece of bone that acts like a spike or poker |
| Rival (<i>ri-vel</i>) | An enemy or opponent |
| Nursery burrow (<i>ner-ser-y bur-row</i>) | An underground place where baby animals can be safe |