

The platypus is such a weird creature that when the first drawings and descriptions of it were shared in the late 1700's, scientist thought it was some sort of bad joke!



It has a bill like a duck, a tail like a beaver, and feet like an otter.



Where do these strange animals live?

Surprisingly, they can only be found in the rivers and streams of Eastern Australia and Tasmania.

What do they call a baby platypus?

Decode the answer by using the chart below.

E-1 G-2 L-3 P-4 U-5

It's called a $\frac{\quad}{4} \frac{\quad}{5} \frac{\quad}{2} \frac{\quad}{2} \frac{\quad}{3} \frac{\quad}{1}$.



When a platypus is born, it is only the size of a jellybean!

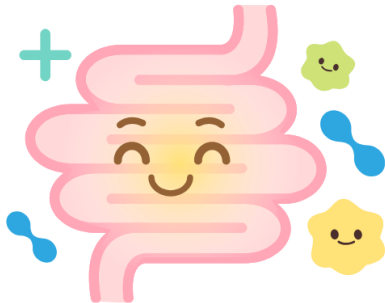
A male platypus will grow to an average length of 20 inches while the female platypus will have an average length of 17 inches.

Platypuses spend 40% of the night hunting for food on the bottom of the river. They scoop up insects, larvae, shellfish and worms with their bills.



Did you know...

... that the platypus doesn't have teeth or a stomach?



They pick up gravel from the bottom of the river that helps them mash up their food and then digest those yummy morsels in their intestines.

Here's a joke for you:

Why do platypuses get robbed so often?

Because they always have big bills on them!



The platypus uses its tail to push it through the water, help it to steer in the right direction and to carry things back home.

If you want to know how healthy a platypus is, just look at its tail.

Platypuses are very playful and can live up to 11 years in the wild.



Did you know...

... that you should never pick up a male platypus?

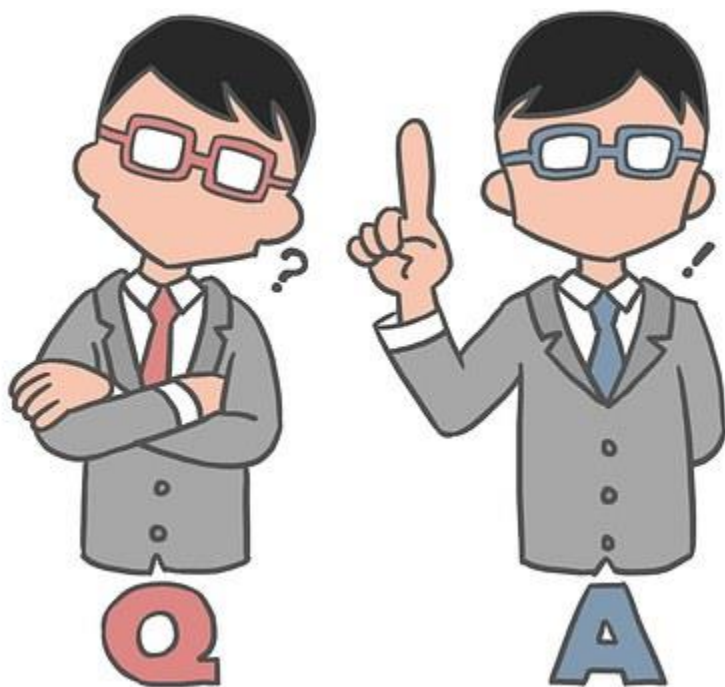


They have sharp stingers on the heels of their hind feet which won't kill you or I, but cause us a whole lot of pain!

Not only can the platypus swim gracefully in the river, it can also run sprints on the land and dig with its claws!



Answer Key



What do you call a baby platypus?

A Puggle.

So Long for Now

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Max Reid / Kidz Rock University