


Duck-billed Platypuses

Introduction

Duck-billed platypuses are small, shy animals. They have a flattened head and body to help them glide through the water. Their fur, dark brown on top and tan on their bellies, is thick and repels water to keep them warm and dry even after hours of swimming. 

Appearance

Common name: Platypus

Scientific name: Ornithorhynchus anatinus 


Type: mammals

Diet: carnivore

Size: head and body (male) 40-63 cm, (Female), tail 13cm

Weight: (male) 1-2.4 kg's (female) 0.7-1.6 kg's

Diet

These mammals are bottom feeders. They scoop up insects and larvae, shellfish and worms in their bill along with bits of gravel and mud from the bottom. All this material is stored in cheek pouches and, at the surface, mashed up for consumption. Platypuses do not have teeth, so the bits of gravel help them “chew” their meals. 

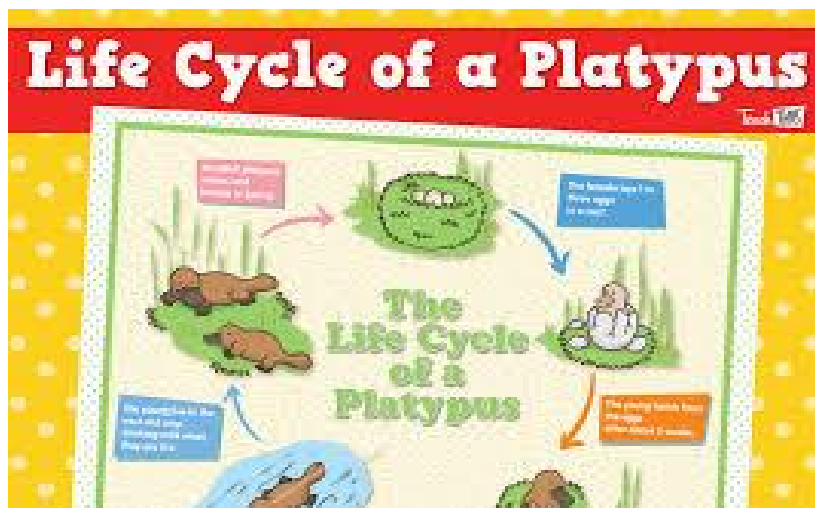
Habitat 🌳

You can find a platypus in eastern Australia from the steamy tropics of far north Queensland to the freezing snows of Tasmania. 🦆



Life cycle 🦆

The first stage of a platypus is an egg, which then moves on to hatching then infant and, last but not least, adult. 🦆



Platypus Life Cycle

Conclusion 🧡

Platypuses are long lived, surviving *20* years or more in captivity and up to *12* years in the wild. Scientists think these fascinating creatures are the earliest relatives of modern mammals. Recent studies show that they first evolved more than 112 million years ago, well before the extinction of the dinosaurs. 🐻