

# PLATYPUS

Set 2



Scientific Name: *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*  
Common Name: Platypus

The Platypus is one of Australia's most unusual mammals and is the animal emblem of both Taronga Conservation Society Australia and NSW. Secretive and difficult to spot, it has lived in eastern Australia's waterways for thousands of years.

Platypuses have a duck-like bill, waterproof fur, webbed feet and a flat tail. Males also have venomous spurs on their hind legs.

They live in freshwater creeks, rivers and streams across eastern Australia and Tasmania. Some regions, such as Queensland, have separate, disconnected populations.



herbivore



omnivore



carnivore

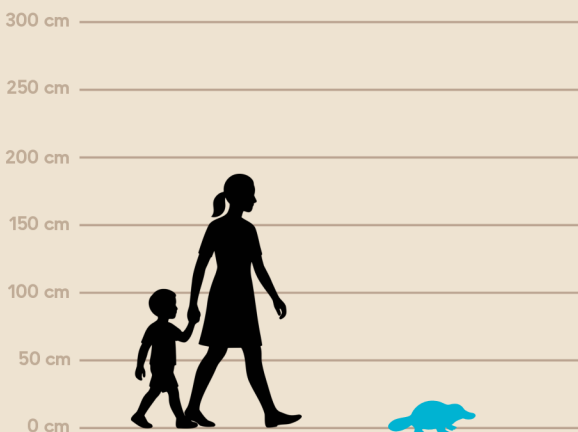
Platypuses eat aquatic invertebrates such as insect larvae, worms, and small crustaceans. They forage underwater using electroreceptors on their bill.

Predators include foxes, dogs, snakes, and large birds of prey. Habitat damage and traps also threaten their survival.

Platypuses are monotremes, meaning they are mammals that lay eggs. They swim using their webbed feet and fold the webbing back when walking on land. They are mostly active at night and rest in burrows.

The Platypus is a remarkable and ancient Australian species, and protecting its rivers and habitats is vital for its future.

## HOW BIG ARE THEY?



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Fossil evidence shows platypuses existed over 100 million years ago.
- Platypuses are one of the only venomous mammals.
- They use electroreception to find food underwater.

Gifted and Talented Teacher

