

# PLATYPUS

Set 1



Scientific Name: *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*  
Common Name: Platypus

The Platypus is a special Australian animal that lives in rivers and creeks. It is the animal emblem of NSW and Taronga Conservation Society Australia.

## Appearance

A platypus has a soft body, a duck-like bill, webbed feet and a flat tail. Male platypuses have a sharp spur on their back legs.

## Habitat

Platypuses live in freshwater rivers and streams in eastern Australia and Tasmania. They make burrows in the riverbank to rest.



herbivore



omnivore



carnivore

## Food

Platypuses eat worms, insects and small animals they find underwater. Their bill helps them sense movement in the water.

## Predators

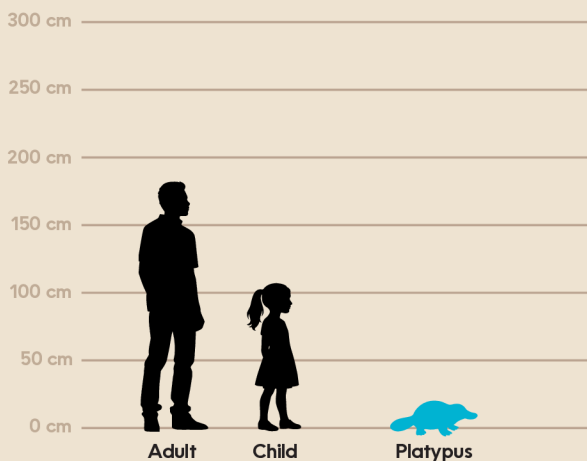
Foxes, dogs, snakes and big birds sometimes try to catch platypuses. Some can also get trapped in nets.

## Behaviour

Platypuses are shy and active mostly at night. They swim with their webbed feet and walk on land by folding the webbing back.

The platypus is an amazing animal, and caring for our rivers helps keep it safe.

## HOW BIG ARE THEY?



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Platypuses lay eggs even though they are mammals.
- Male platypuses have venomous spurs.
- The platypus bill can "feel" their food underwater.

Gifted and Talented Teacher

