

Platypus



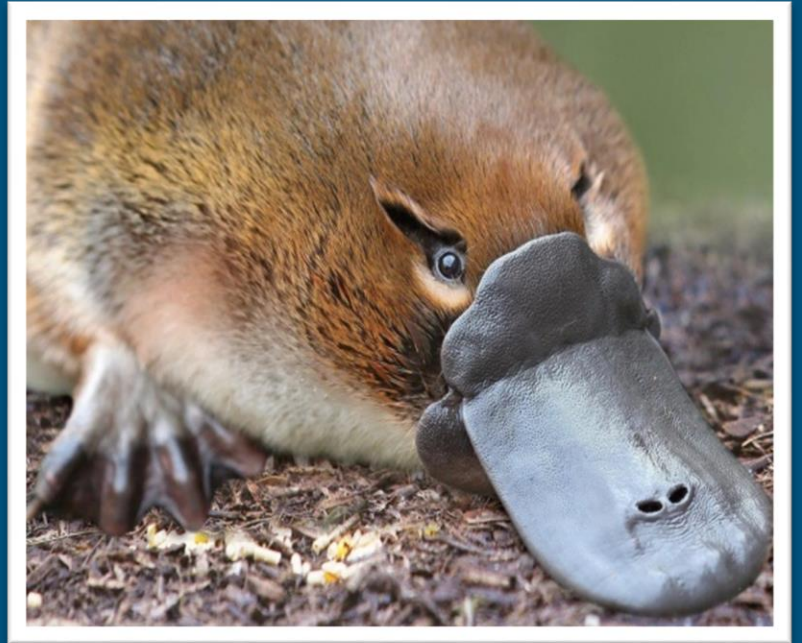
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Strange beast

- Platypuses are the most amazing animals on our planet.
- It lays eggs, has poisonous spurs, picks up electrical signals and is completely devoid of teeth and stomach.
- But he has a beak



Is it a bird or an animal?

- Being mammals, platypuses, like birds, lay eggs, but the cubs hatched from them are fed with milk.
- The diameter of the eggs they lay usually does not exceed 1 centimeter



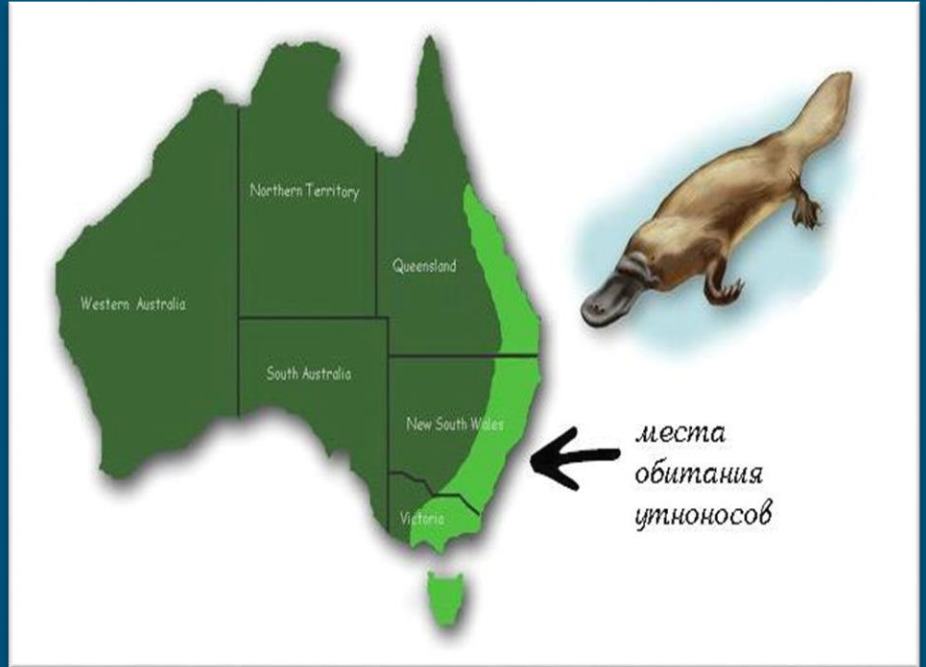
Appearance

Regarding appearance, platypuses are unique. They have a flattened, duck-like bill, webbed feet, and a leathery tail. Platypuses are covered in waterproof fur that helps them swim underwater. They can grow up to 50 cm in length and weigh up to 2.4 kg.



Habitats

Platypuses are found mainly in eastern Australia, in habitats such as rivers, streams and lakes with overgrown vegetation.



Diet

The first thing to mention about the platypus is its diet. Platypuses are omnivorous animals that feed on small invertebrates like crustaceans, insect larvae and worms, as well as amphibians, fish, and even small mammals.



Natural enemies

Like most animals, platypuses have natural enemies. Among them, one can distinguish predatory animals such as foxes, dingos, goannas and snakes. Thanks to their excellent swimming ability and fast movements platypuses can usually avoid attacks.



Population

Despite this, platypuses are still under threat. Currently, there are only about 30,000 platypuses left in the wild. This is due to habitat loss, pollution, and accidental capture by fishing gear.



Platypus relatives

- The closest biological relatives of the platypus are echidnas.
- Biologists and zoologists say that in a number of ways, platypuses are close to reptiles.



Significant facts

- The image of this animal can be seen on a coin of 20 Australian cents.
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