

AMAZING ANIMALS: PLATYPUS



Platypuses are the only animal who have body parts that usually belong to reptiles, birds and mammals.

- Platypuses have venom (like a snake does) which is very rare in mammals, only the venom is not in its teeth, it is held in its back legs.
- They have a beak like a duck. Platypuses are also one of the only mammals on earth who lay eggs rather than give birth to live young.
- However, like all other mammals, their body is covered in fur, and they feed their young with milk. What a mixed-up creature!



Platypuses are considered the strangest-looking animal on earth. When scientists discovered them, they thought that platypuses were not real animals.

Platypuses don't have teeth so they have worked out how to use small rocks as tools. They pick small rocks from the river and keep them in their beaks to help them crush their favourite food.

Platypuses' big flat tails are used to store body fat. When they cannot find food for a long time, they can use their fat reserves. A female platypus also uses her tail to hold her eggs against her body to keep them warm.

Discuss the answers to the following questions:

1. What do you find most amazing about platypuses? Why?
2. Why do you think platypuses look the way they do?
3. If your body could be made up of different animal parts, which ones would you choose and why?



Now write three facts that you have just read into your book. Then write what how you feel about what you have learnt.