

The Platypus & Monotremes — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- Monotremes are mammals that lay eggs — very rare in the animal world.
- The only monotremes are the platypus and the echidna.
- The platypus has a duck-like bill, webbed feet and a beaver-like tail.
- Both feed their young on milk, like other mammals.

Key vocabulary

- Monotreme — an egg-laying mammal.
- Bill — a beak-like mouth.
- Webbed — having skin between the toes for swimming.
- Electroreception — sensing tiny electric signals from prey.

A puzzling animal

When the platypus was first sent to Europe, scientists thought it was a hoax! It uses its bill to sense prey underwater with its eyes shut.

Only in Australia

Monotremes are found only in Australia and New Guinea — living links to the distant past of mammals.