

Australia's Amazing Platypus

Name

Date

Student Response

My score for this book is/10.

It was a book.

1. Describe the platypus

The platypus is not like
m..... mammals.

The platypus has webbed f.....

The platypus has a b.....

A mother platypus c.....
lay eggs.

The platypus is an
amazing m.....



2. Show where the platypus live. Write **Australia** on the map.



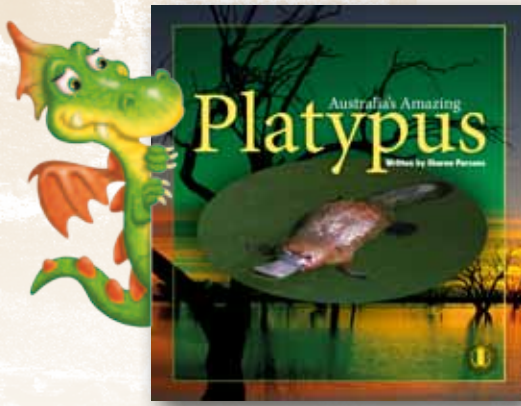
3. Read, cover, spell!

Read	Cover	Spell
bill	bill	.....
can	can	.....
feet	feet	.....
lay	lay	.....
like	like	.....
live	live	.....
lives	lives	.....
map	map	.....
many	many	.....
most	most	.....

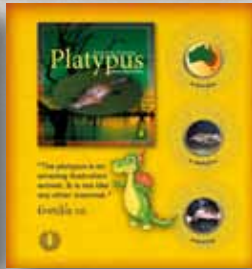


You've finished!
What will you read next?

Grusilda



Inside Front Cover: Glossary



Title Page: Topic Introduction

Teaching Unit

Australia's Amazing Platypus Level 8 Non-Fiction – Description

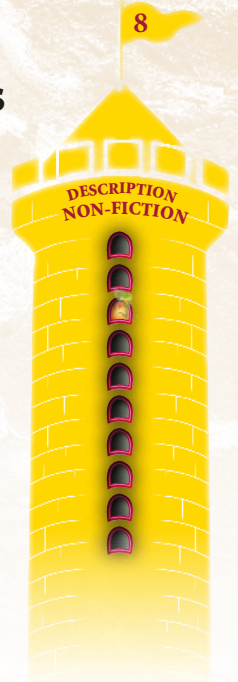
Curriculum Topics: English; Geography; Science

Book Synopsis: The book begins with a map showing where the platypus lives. This introductory description features its main characteristics, and ends with a wildlife worker who works with the platypus.

Non-High Frequency Words: Most words are repeated and supported by clear illustrations.

High Frequency Words: *Australia's Amazing Platypus* has an average percentage of high frequency words.

Comprehension: The Teaching Unit's focus is on seven areas of comprehension – connection, inference, importance, questioning, summarising, synthesis and visual. We advise teachers to tailor literal comprehension questions for each group.



Page 2

Description – Introduction

Introduces the platypus and where it lives.

Language Features

Map: labels

Word family: live, lives

Words starting with "m": map, marked

Words starting with "p", "pl": parts, platypus

Comprehension – Inference, Visual

In which parts of Australia do the platypus live?

Do you live in the same area? Point to the map and show where you live.

English, Arts, Geography and Science Activity

Discuss the map activity on the student activity sheet to prepare the students for independence.



Pages 4 and 5

Description – Characteristic

Describes two physical characteristics and the questions are answered after the descriptions.

Language Features

Labels: around illustration support text

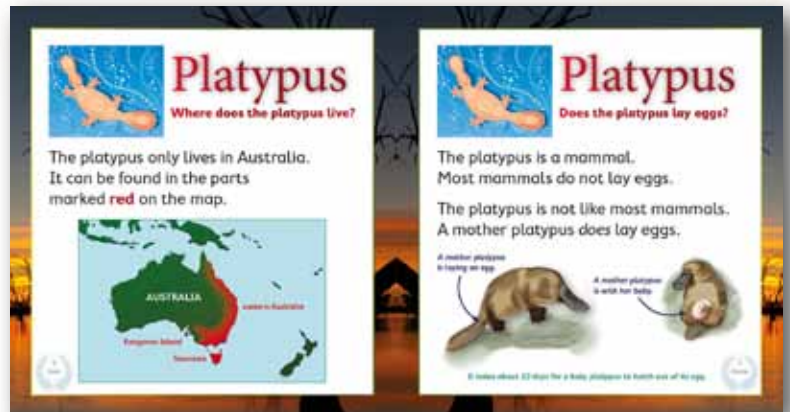
Same sentence structure and repeated text on pages 4 and 5 (first two sentences): support when reading new content vocabulary on page 5

Comprehension – Visual, Inference, Estimation

An adult platypus is about 10–20 cms longer than a 30 cm ruler. How long do you think this platypus is? Measure it. Would you be able to easily see a platypus in a river or lake? Why?

English, Maths and Science Activity

Draw a life-size adult platypus – a male is about 50 cm in length and a female is about 40 cm in length. Choose either a male or female and write caption, e.g. My adult male platypus is 50 cm long.



Page 3

Description – Characteristic

Describes characteristics and then answers the lead question.

Language Features

Singular and Plural: egg, eggs; mammal, mammals

Word family: lay, laying

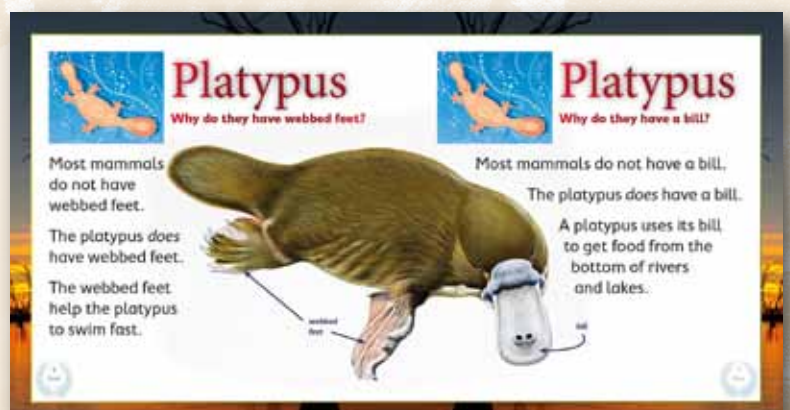
Words starting with "m": mammal, mammals, most, mother ("map", "marked" on page 2)

Comprehension – Inference, Synthesis

If there were no words, what do the images tell you about the platypus? What makes the platypus different to most mammals?

English, Arts and Science Activity

Discuss other familiar mammals. Draw a different mammal next to the platypus. Write captions, e.g. "**Cow**: This mammal does not lay eggs."; "**Platypus**: This mammal does lay eggs."





A platypus can swim underwater for up to two minutes. I can't hold my fiery breath for that long.

Pages 6 and 7

Description – Text Support for Characteristics

Text on pages 6 and 7 support the characteristics described on pages 4 and 5.

Language Features

Adjectives and nouns: good swimmer; long burrows

Captions: open and closed captions

Singular and plural: burrow, burrows

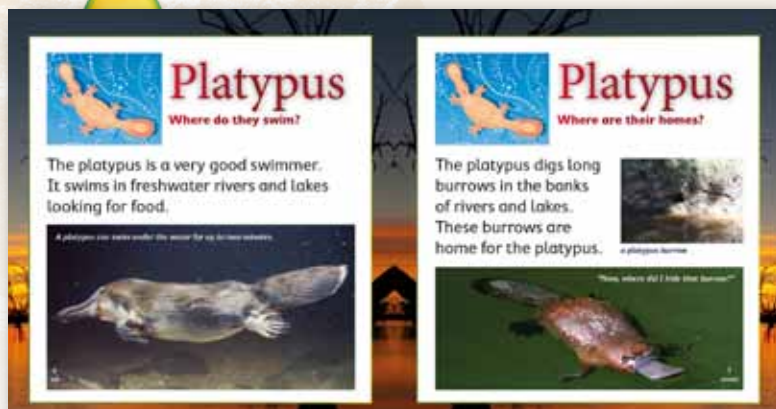
Word family: swim, swims, swimmer

Comprehension – Inference, Visual, Importance

Why do you think the platypus lives in long burrows in the banks of rivers and lakes? What would be the most helpful part of their body when digging burrows?

English, Arts and Science Activity

Imagine how a platypus looks when its digging a long burrow. Draw a platypus digging inside a burrow. Write a caption, e.g. A platypus digs a long burrow.



That's a great ending! Josh Griffiths has spent many years learning about the platypus so he can help to protect them in their natural habitat.

Page 8

Description – Evaluation

The conclusion is a reminder that the platypus must be protected.

Language Features

Revise vocabulary: Australia; platypus; rivers and lakes

Word family: wild, wildlife

Words starting with "m": Melbourne, many ("map", "marked" on page 2); ("mammal", "mammals", "most", "mother" on page 3)

Comprehension – Summarise, Synthesise, Importance

What does the author want you to remember at the end of this book? Why is it important to look after the platypus? What could our school do to help raise money for organisations that look after the platypus?

English and Arts Activity

Discuss how people can look after the platypus. Write a conservation slogan, e.g. Protect the Platypus!



Student Activity

Student activity sheet
(free download/PDF)



Group Activity

Chart: "Australia's Amazing Platypus"

Prepare a template for a pictorial graph. List key facts from the book on the left-hand side. Students draw a platypus and then glue it opposite their most amazing fact.

SCIENCE

Monotremes

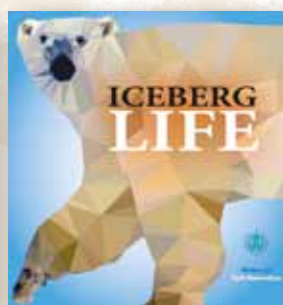
Monotremes are mammals that lay eggs. The platypus and the two species of echidna (long-beaked and short-beaked) are the world's only monotremes. The echidna lives in Australia and New Guinea.



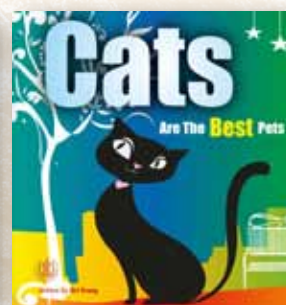
Check out these other books for projects about **animals** with coats of fur or hair.



Guinea Pigs Make Great Pets
Level 6: Non-Fiction, Exposition



Iceberg Life
Level 9: Non-Fiction, Report



Cats Are the Best Pets
Level 16: Non-Fiction, Persuasive



For free book rewards, register your school with our Staircase program at www.theliteracytower.com