CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Platypus

Ornithorhynchus anatinus

The platypus (Ornithorhynchus anatinus) is a unique mammal, distinct in its classification as a monotreme, a group that includes only five species worldwide. Native to the river systems of eastern Au…

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal
Family: Ornithorhynchidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers and streams
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Near Threatened
Lifespan: 10-17 years
Weight: 0.7-2.4 kg
Scientific name: Ornithorhynchus anatinus

Did you know?

- The platypus was so strange-looking that early European scientists thought the first specimen sent to England was a hoax, believing it to be a stitch…
- Despite its duck-like bill, the platypus is more closely related to echidnas than to any bird. The platypus genome reveals a fascinating blend of rep…

What I learned

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