

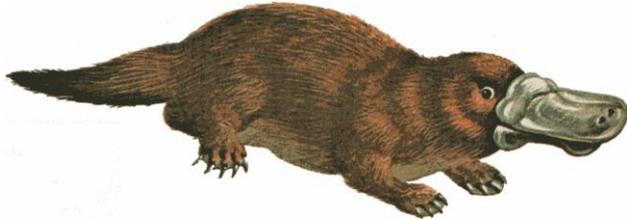


# Vertebrates

## Worksheet 1

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### Platypus

*The platypus is an amazing animal. It has a bill and webbed feet but it is not a bird. It lays eggs but it is a mammal. It walks like a reptile but it has fur – two coats of it! It has small eyes and no visible ears, but its sight and hearing are brilliant. It has no true teeth, but it is a carnivore. It can growl like a dog.*

*It looks like a cute stuffed toy, but the male produces a venom that can be lethal. No wonder people have always been fascinated by this enigmatic creature!*

*The platypus was first studied by Europeans in the 18th century. However, the story had a strange beginning. When a drawing of a platypus and a platypus skin were sent back from Australia in 1798, British scientists actually thought that someone was pulling their leg. One of them accused the unknown joker of attaching a duck's beak to the body of a beaver. As the platypus is also a shy, unsociable animal, it has taken the scientific community years to learn all its secrets.*

### 1. Match the words and their definitions.

- bill*
- webbed*
- growl*
- venom*
- lethal*

- to make a deep sound in the throat to show anger*
- poison*
- a flat beak*
- capable of killing*
- with a membrane between the toes*

### 2. Choose the best title for this reading passage:

- A practical joke
- The enigmatic platypus
- A scientific discovery

### 3. Correct the information in each sentence.

- a) The platypus lays eggs, but it is not a mammal.
  - b) It has a tail like a bird.
  - c) It is a friendly, sociable animal.
  - d) Because of its small eyes, it has a bad sense of sight.
- Scientists found the platypus easy to understand.

### 4. Vocabulary

<i>amazing</i>	
<i>bill and webbed feet</i>	
<i>mammal</i>	
<i>fur - two coats</i>	
<i>sight</i>	
<i>hearing</i>	
<i>duck's beak</i>	

<i>cute stuffed toy</i>	
<i>venom</i>	
<i>however</i>	
<i>thought</i>	
<i>pulling their leg</i>	
<i>joker</i>	
<i>beaver</i>	