

Platypus

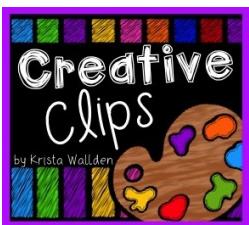
Lapbook



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Platypus Research & Lessons

A Platypus is Like...

Beaver: The platypus has a strong tail like a beaver.

Bird: The platypus lays eggs like a bird.

Duck: The platypus has a bill and webbed feet like a duck.

Prairie Dog: The platypus can borrow in the ground like a prairie dog.

Otter: The platypus has fur like an otter.

Snake: The platypus shoots venom like a snake.

→ Complete the corresponding matchbooks.

Where Does the Platypus Live?

The platypus lives only in the eastern part of Australia and on the island of Tasmania. A reference map has been provided below to help your child shade the correct regions of Australia.

→ Complete the map simple fold.

Breathing

A platypus can stay underwater for two to three minutes. Its nostrils are on the top of its bill so it can stay under the water and breathe at the same time! For this minit book have your child write how long the platypus can stay under the water. Then, get a stopwatch and see how long you child can hold his/her breath. Record your results under the appropriate flap. In the center of the book write a little about the bill of the platypus and how he can breathe under the water.

→ Complete the Breathing Flap book.

What's for Dinner?

The platypus eats worms, slugs, shrimp, larvae, eggs, and yuppies.

→ Complete the What's for Dinner? plate.

Feeding Facts

The platypus is awake for about 12 hours and spends this time swimming and searching for food. A platypus can eat its own body weight in food in one night. Its bill works as a highly tuned receptor picking up the weak electric fields of the shrimps and worms it eats; it can even detect prey under mud and rocks.

→ Complete the Feeding Facts book.

Burrowing

The platypus digs and lives in a burrow underground near the water. The burrow can be up to 60 feet long. A platypus lays her eggs in the burrow.

Platypus Facts

A platypus lives up to 17 years in captivity. It has dark brown fur with light brown hair on its belly. A platypus can grow to up to 2 feet from head to tail. The Platypus has webbed feet to help it swim. The platypus weight from 2.2 to 4.8 pounds. Its short legs have strong claws and webbed feet. The webbing can be rolled up into its palms to free its claws for digging.

Platypus Babies

The mother platypus usually lays her sticky, soft-skinned eggs in pairs. More rarely one or three eggs are laid. When three eggs are laid, they are attached in a triangle. She keeps the eggs in the burrow and keeps them warm on her belly and covered with her tail.

The babies, called *puggles*, are born blind and without fur, within two weeks. A week or so later, the babies suckle milk from their mother, not from the nipples but from tufts of hair. The babies drink milk off of their mother's fur for four to five months. The platypus is not an ordinary mammal, it's different. It's labeled a *monotreme*.

→ Complete the Platypus Babies Envelope book.

Classification -- Platypus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Subclass: Prototheria

Order: Monotremata

Family: Ornithorhynchidae

Genus: Ornithorhynchus

Species: anatinus

Binomial name: Ornithorhynchus anatinus

Unique Australian Animals

Have your child identify some animals that are unique to Australia. You can include as much or as little information as you would like about these animals. Some of the animals are kangaroo, koala, dingo, wombat, Tasmanian devil, and green tree frog.

Research other Australian animals.

→ Complete the Unique Australian Animals Shutterflap book.


All in the Family

What other animal is like the platypus? The spiny anteater of course! The spiny anteater is also

known as an echidna. These animals are monotremes (egg-laying mammals). Monotremes live only in Australia and New Guinea.

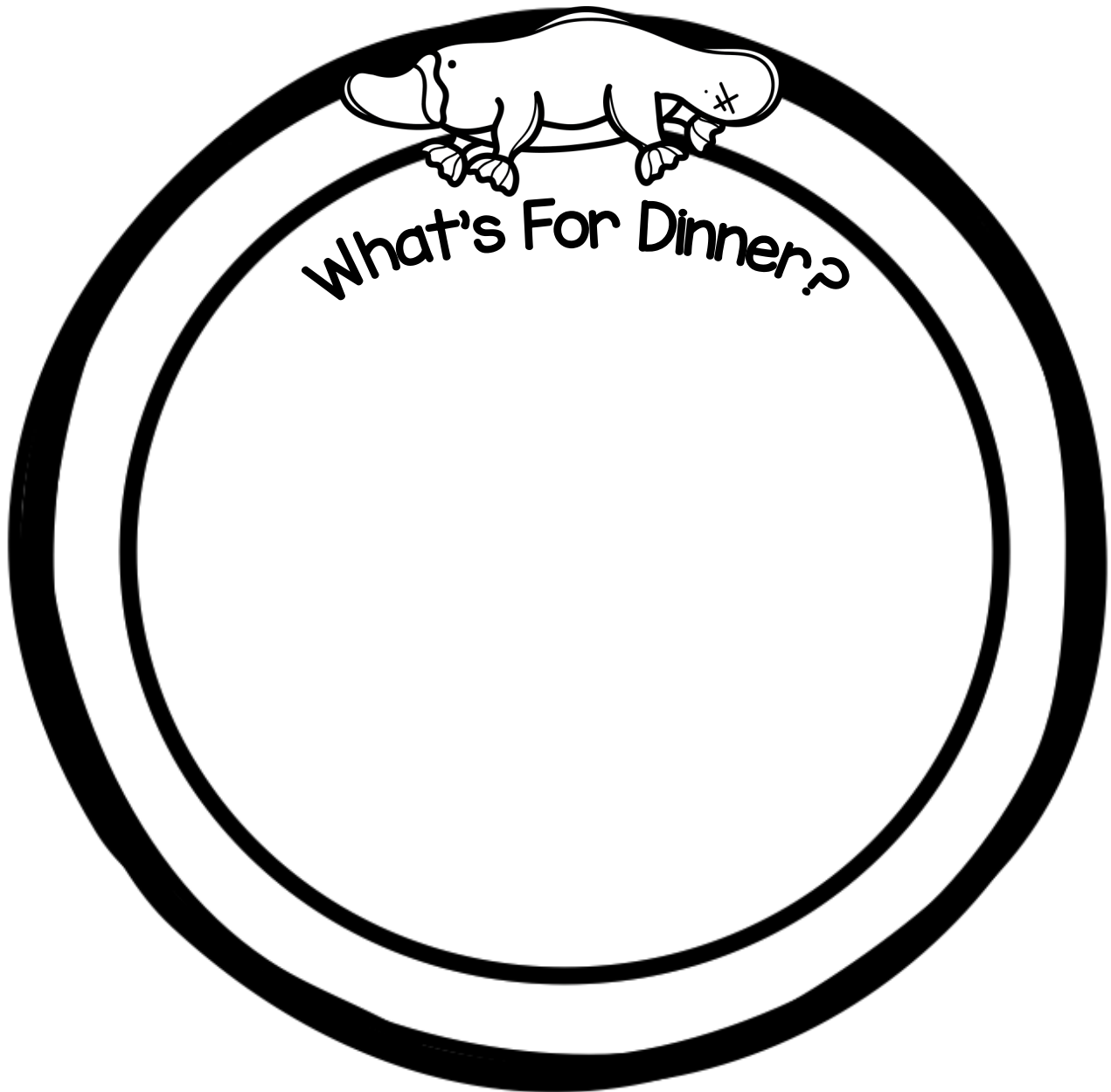
→ Complete the Who Is Like the Platypus? book.

Cut on the solid black lines, removing gray areas next to tabs. Stack tab book in order with cover on top and staple on the left side.

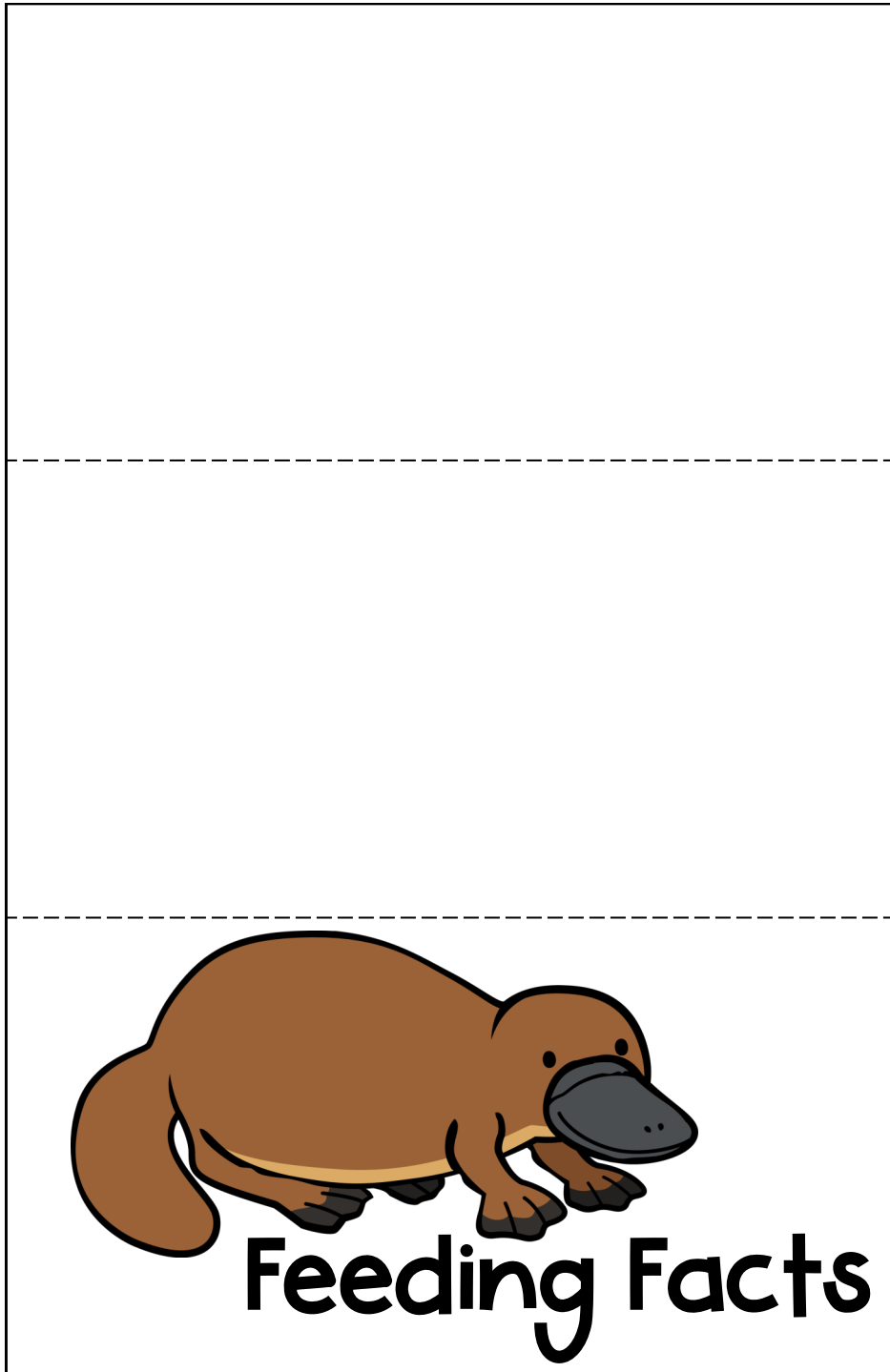
<p>Lifespan</p>	<h1>Platypus Facts</h1> 
<p>Fur & Feet</p>	<p>Size</p>

Cut out plate as one piece. After your student learns about a platypus' diet, have your student draw the items (or write the items) on the plate.

If desired, fold in half or fourths and add to your lapbook.



Cut on solid lines. Fold (in thirds) on dotted lines. Record platypus feeding facts inside.

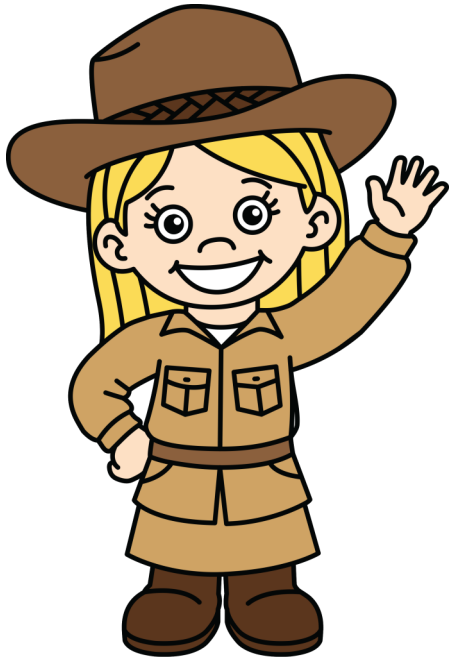
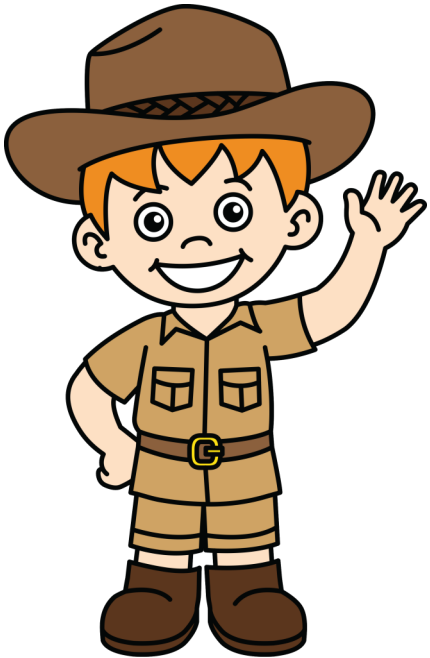


Feeding Facts

Cut on solid lines. Fold in half. Add the map to the inside of the book.

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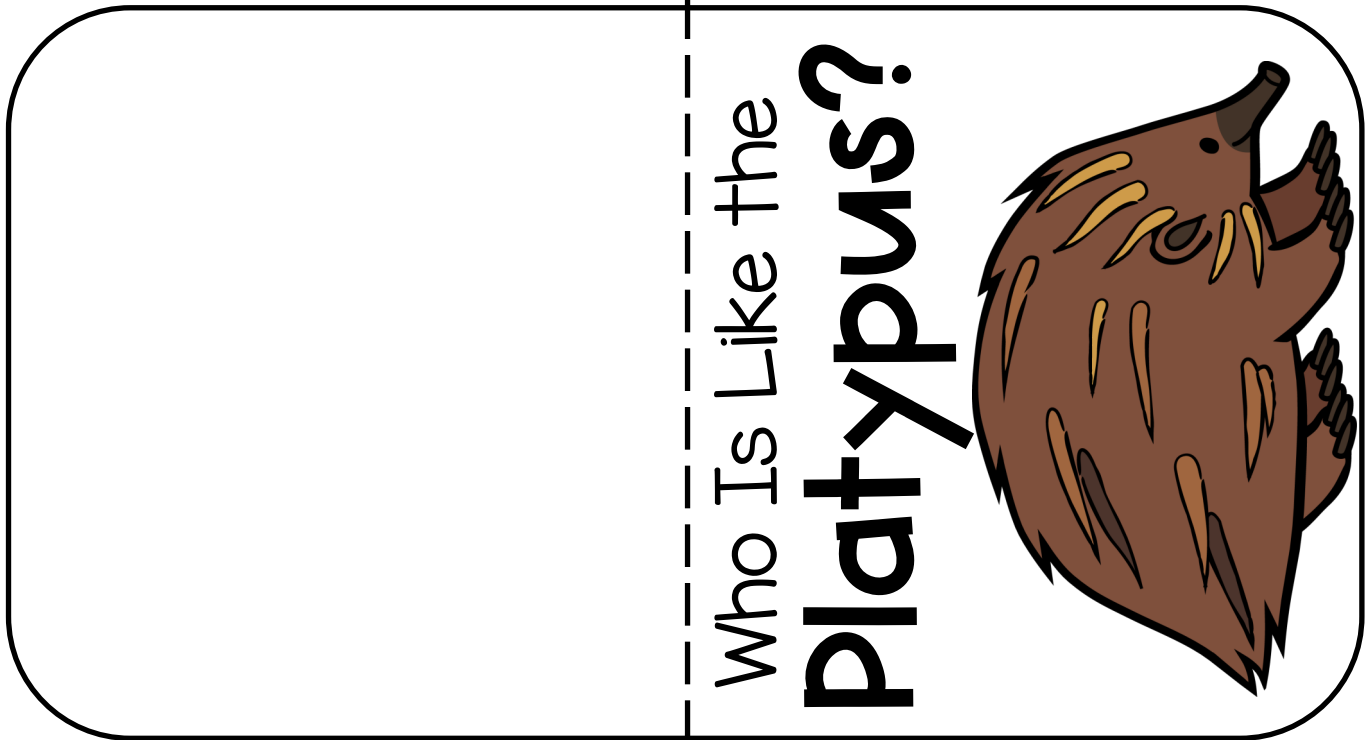
Where Can I Find a



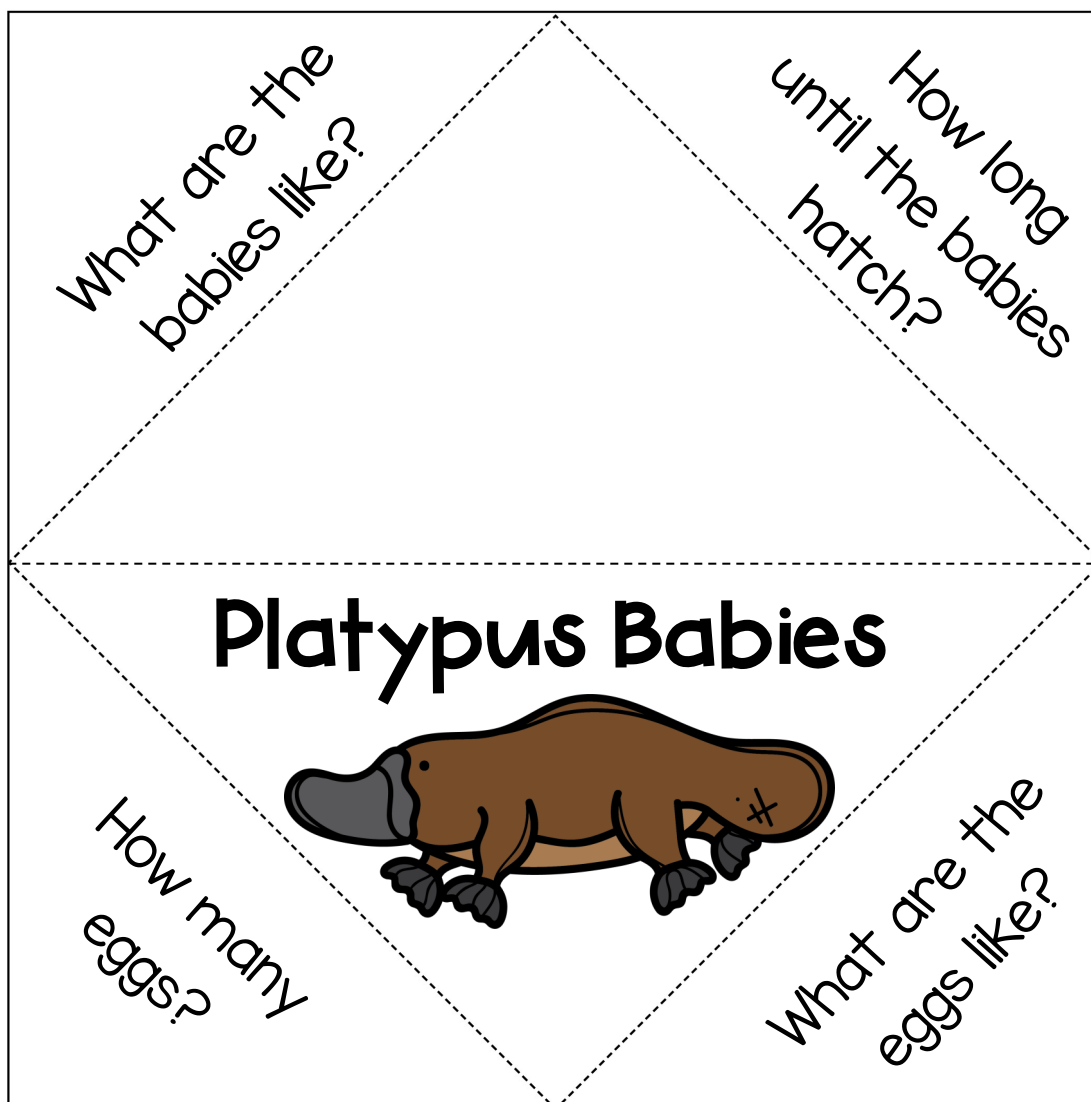
Platypus?



Cut out the map. Color in the location of where platypuses can be found. Paste the map inside the book on the previous page.



Cut book out as one piece. Fold four flaps under, using dotted lines as your guides.
Fold the book in half.



Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half. Have your student design a cover on the front.

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Label a Platypus

Label the eyes.

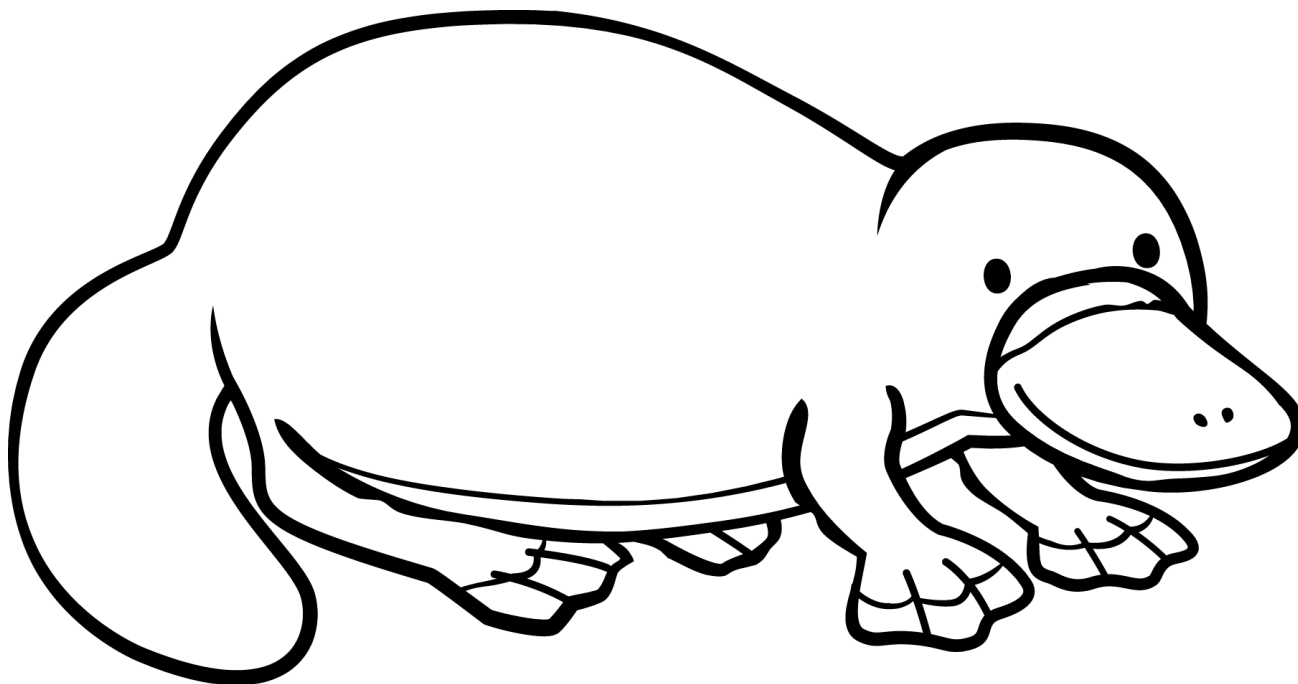
Label the nostrils.

Label the bill and color it blue.

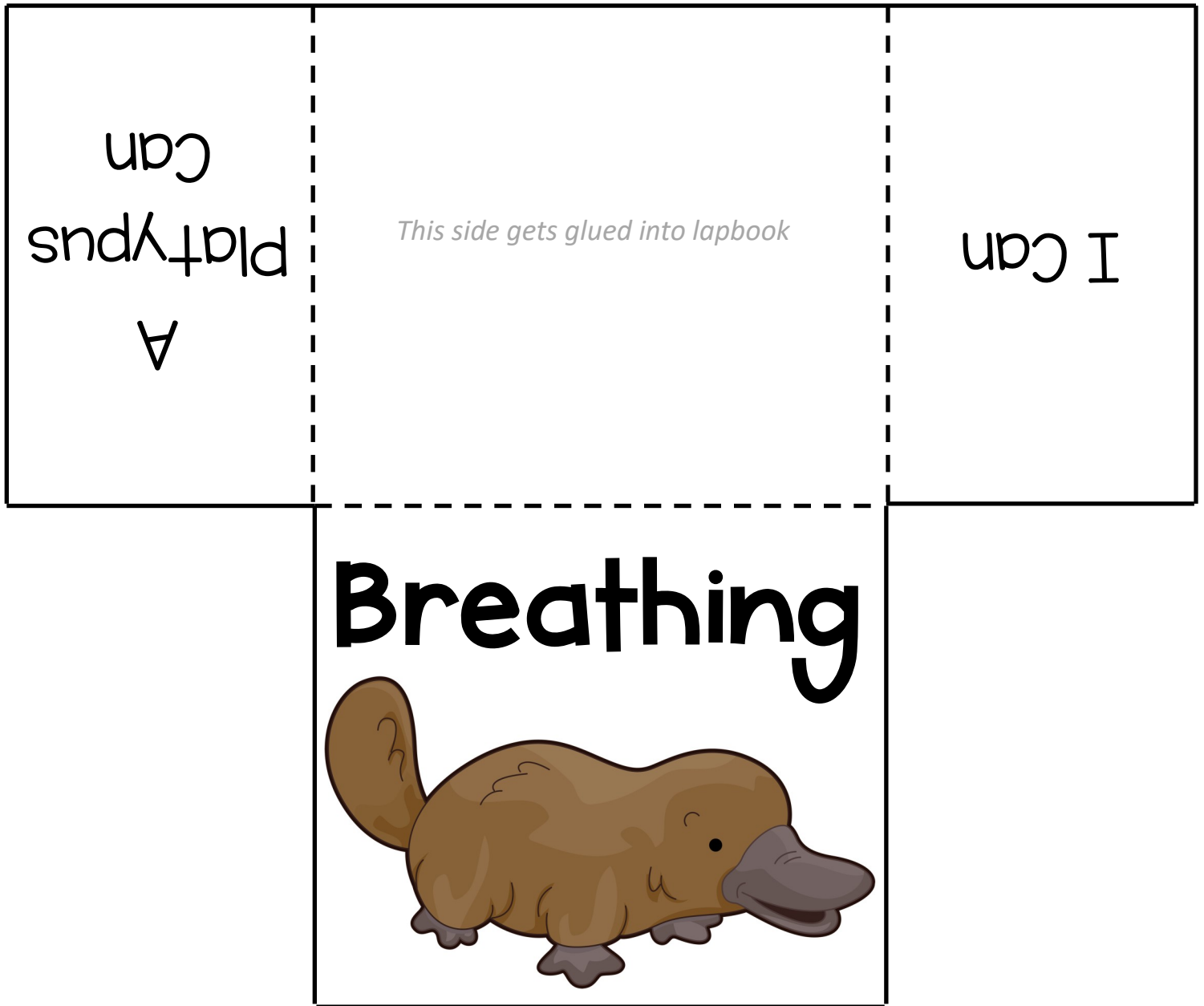
Label the webbed feet and color them black.

Label the flat tail and color it brown.

Color the fur dark brown.



Cut out book as one piece. The two side flaps will fold in towards the center. Cover flap will fold down.



How Is a
Platypus



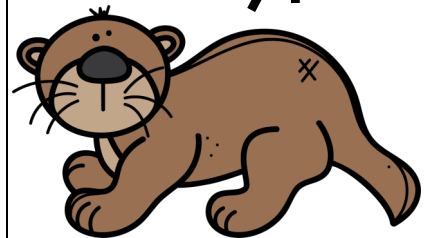
Like a
Snake?

How Is a
Platypus



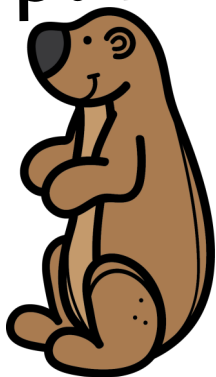
Like a
Beaver?

How Is a
Platypus



Like an
Otter?

How Is a
Platypus



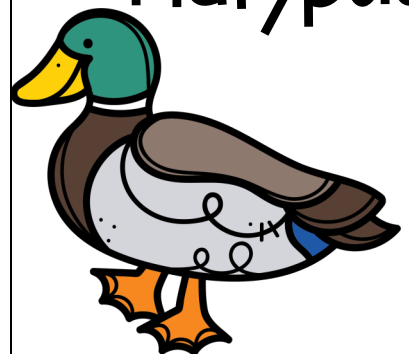
Like a
Prairie Dog?

How Is a
Platypus



Like a **Bird?**

How Is a
Platypus

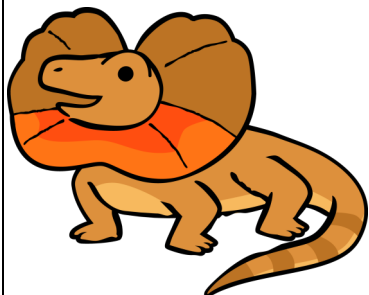


Like a **Duck?**

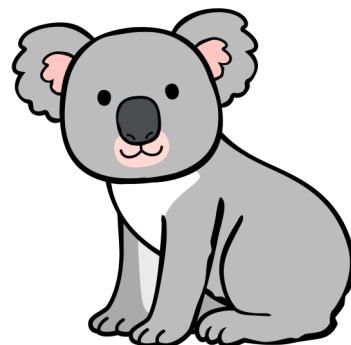
Cut on solid lines. Fold on dotted.

Unique Australian
Animals

Frilled Lizard



Koala



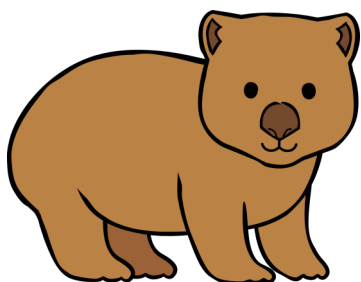
Kookabura



Tasmanian
Devil



Wombat



Dingo

