



Teacher Resource

Platypus Protection

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What are some unique features of the platypus?
2. Platypuses are monotremes. What does that mean?
3. Where in Australia can you find platypuses?
4. What are some threats to platypuses?
5. What is being done to protect them?

Activity: See, Think and Wonder

After watching the BTN Platypus Protection story, students will respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What do you WONDER about this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have about this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN story, hold a class discussion using the following discussion starters.

- Describe a platypus. What are some of their physical features?
- Platypuses are monotremes. What does that mean?
- Why are platypuses important to river ecosystems?
- Why is it important to protect platypuses?



EPISODE 3

20th February 2024

KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of platypuses and create a profile.

CURRICULUM

Science – Year 4

Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive.

Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions.

Science – Year 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.

Science – Year 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

Science – Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment.

Activity: Glossary

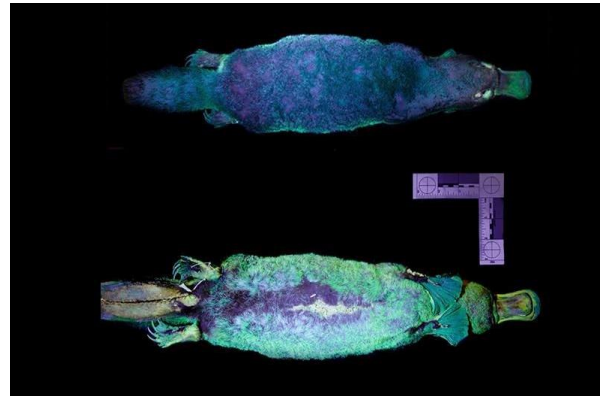
Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Platypus Protection story. Below are some words to get students started.

PROTECTION	MONOTREME	MAMMAL
ECOSYSTEM	HABITAT	THREATENED

Activity: Platypus Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Platypus Protection story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

- How does the platypus use its unique features like its webbed feet and bill, to survive?
- What are the biggest threats to the platypus population?
- Why is the platypus well adapted to a semi-aquatic lifestyle?
- What are electroreceptors and how do platypuses use electroreception to find prey in the water?
- Platypuses fur glows green and blue under ultra violet light. What is biofluorescence and what do we know about why platypuses glow?



Activity: Platypus profile

Students will investigate the platypus and create a profile.

Research

Students will research the following and then share their research findings with the class or create a display in the classroom. Students can use the Animal Profile at the end of this activity.

- Illustration or photo
- Name (common and scientific name)
- Conservation
- Appearance
- Adaptations
- Habitat – where would you find platypuses?
- Threats
- Unique features



Activity: Features of a platypus

Students will create a labelled diagram of a platypus including the following information:

- A title
- An accurate drawing
- A scale to show size
- Labels to show features – webbed feet, flat tail, venomous spur (male only), bill, waterproof fur.



Activity – Platypus Dreaming Story

Students will explore Indigenous people’s connection to the platypus through Dreaming Stories. [Listen to Biladurang](#) - the Dreaming Story of how First Nations people believe the platypus got its features. Ask students to retell the story in their own words.



Activity – Choose a Project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Platypuses and the ecosystem

Research the important role platypuses play in river ecosystems. Present your research in an interesting way.

Life cycle of a platypus

Create a diagram that shows the life cycle of the platypus from birth to adulthood.

Quiz

Create a true or false quiz to test your classmate’s knowledge about platypuses.

Did you know?

Using the information in the BTN story and your own research, create a *Did You Know* fact sheet about platypuses. Publish using [Canva](#).

Activity: Platypus Quiz

1. Platypuses are an introduced species.

- A. True
- B. False

2. Platypuses are...

- A. Reptiles
- B. Amphibians
- C. Monotremes

3. What is the conservation status of the platypus?

- A. Least concern
- B. Near threatened
- C. Extinct in the wild

4. How do platypuses detect prey?

- A. Magnetoreception
- B. Electroreception
- C. Echolocation

5. A baby platypus is called a...

- A. Pup
- B. Puggle
- C. Cub

6. The platypus is on which Australian coin?

- A. Twenty cent coin
- B. Fifty cent coin
- C. One dollar coin

Quiz Answers: 1 A, 2 C, 3 B, 4 B, 5 B, 6 A

Useful Websites

- [Our animals: Lives of platypuses](#) – ABC Education
- [Platypus](#) – Australian Museum
- [What is a monotreme?](#) – Australian Museum
- [Platypus Return](#) – BTN
- [Platypus Census](#) – BTN

ANIMAL PROFILE

Scientific Name

APPEARANCE

Common Name

ADAPTATIONS

Unique Features or Interesting Facts

HABITAT

THREATS