

These Animals Are Mammals

Platypus and Echidna



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An echidna on the move

A mammal is a kind of animal. It has warm blood. It has hair. It gives birth to live babies. It feeds milk to its babies.

Only two mammals lay eggs. One is the Echidna [eh-KID-nuh] and the other is the Platypus [PLAH-tuh-puss]. They both live in Australia.

The echidna looks like a spiny anteater. It has a long, narrow snout. It has a long, sticky tongue that it uses to lick up ants. The echidna also has sharp spines covering its back. The spines protect it from predators. It has short legs with large claws. It uses these claws to dig up ants. It can dig very fast.

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The echidna is a mammal that lays eggs. It has a pouch kind of like a kangaroo. The mom lays one soft, rubbery egg. She puts it in her pouch. The egg hatches after 10 days. The baby is as big as a jellybean. It is called a puggle. The mom feeds milk to her baby. It comes from inside her pouch. The baby laps it up with its tongue.

The baby grows inside the pouch. It stays there until it starts to grow spines. Then the mom takes it out. She hides it in a burrow until it grows big.



By Stefan Kraft via Wikimedia Commons

A platypus swimming

The platypus lives near water. It is a good swimmer. It has a nose like a duck. It has a tail like a beaver.

The platypus is a mammal that lays eggs. The mom makes a burrow. She lays one or two soft, rubbery eggs inside. She keeps them warm. They hatch after 10 days. The mom feeds milk to the babies. She does this from a special place on her body. They lap it up. She stays with them for three to four months. Then they leave the burrow. They can now swim.