

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]. One is the Platypus [PLAH-tuh-puss]. They both live in Australia.

The echidna has a long nose. It has a long tongue. It uses this to lick up ants. It has sharp spines. The spines protect it. It has short legs. It has large claws. It uses them to dig up ants. It can dig very fast.

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The echidna is a mammal. It lays eggs. The mom lays one egg. It is soft. It is rubbery. 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 her pouch. The baby laps it up.

The baby grows inside the pouch. It stays there until it grows spines. Then the mom takes it out.



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. It lays eggs. The mom makes a burrow. She lays one or two eggs. They are soft. They are rubbery. She stays with the eggs. They hatch after 10 days. The mom feeds milk to the babies. They lap it up. They grow for three to four months. Then they leave the burrow. They can now swim.