Platypuses and How They Defy Evolutionists Claire Ensminger 8th grade

Platypuses are nocturnal, egg-laying mammals that live in burrows along the streams of the continent of Australia. They are often called duckbilled platypuses because of their broad, flat, hairless bill that resembles the bill of a duck. They grow to about 16-22 inches long, which includes their 4 or 5 inch long tail. They weigh an average of five pounds, but because of their thick, brown fur they look much heavier.

Here is a list of some of the similarities of the platypus to other animals:

- 1. It has webbed feet like an otter or duck.
- 2. It lays leathery eggs like reptiles.
- 3. It has claws like a bird or mammal.
- 4. It can detect electrical currents like some fish.
- 5. It has a bill like a duck.
- 6. It has a flat tail like a beaver.
- 7. It feeds its babies milk and is warm-blooded like mammals.
- 8. The males can inject poison like a snake or spider.

They have webbed feet so that they can easily swim in the water where they live. When walking on land or digging in the ground, the platypus can fold these webs against the palms and the webs of the front feet can be extended beyond the claws. Webbed feet are important for the platypus, because swimming is its main way of transportation just as wings are important for birds in flight. Platypuses use their claws to dig burrows. After mating, the female will dig a nesting burrow sometimes up to 60 feet long.

Their large, flat, paddle-like tail also helps them swim just as such a tail helps the beaver maneuver in the water. A platypus's tail is also used as a storage area for its food reserves as fat.

A platypus has a broad, flat, leathery bill that is used for scooping up worms, small shellfish, shrimp, tadpoles and other animals from the bottoms of streams. This extraordinary bill is made up of hundreds of tiny cells that can feel touch and even electrical currents from bodies of other animals. For the platypus, its bill is very important, because it relies on it and its sense of touch. While underwater, a platypus keeps its eyes and ears closed, so when it hunts underwater it waves its bill from side to side. When it feels or detects electrical currents of another animal, the platypus attacks. Because they have no teeth, they crush their food with horny pads at the back of their jaws.

The platypus's claws, which are located on its front and back feet, are used for digging in the ground. The male platypus also has a hollow, claw-like "spur" behind each of its ankles. These spur-like features are connected to poison glands and are devices used for defense. They are also used for fighting other males for a female. A platypus's fur is very thick and heavy. Its fur is even denser than that of a polar bear or river otter. Although many people think that Australia is always warm, they are mistaken, because southern Australia can get very cold. Even Australian streams that are located in tropical areas can get quite cold. An animal that spends ten to twelve hours a night underwater needs a thick coat of fur.

The female platypus doesn't give birth to live young like almost all other mammals, but lays two to three eggs. These eggs are incubated for twelve days then baby platypuses are born. After six weeks the platypus babies are ready to go out into the world.

Platypuses have been a mystery to evolutionists on how they could have evolved. When they were first discovered, people thought it was some sort of joke, but as we know now, they really do exist. Evolutionists claimed that they had found a link between mammals and their non-mammalian ancestors. But this is not true because platypuses still live today. This interesting creature has a mixture of organs and body parts that are so unrelated to their supposed ancestry that the animal, on the whole, is very confusing to an evolutionist. They cannot explain how this animal come to be like it is now. It doesn't even have a place on the "evolutionary tree", but God created the platypus the best possible way for it to live on the earth. Maybe God created the platypus just to puzzle the evolutionists.

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