



In the latest issue of [Hear the Roar magazine](#) we focus on some of nature's more unusual creatures, such as the duck-billed platypus.

Lucy, from S. Anselm's School, recently sent us a wonderful letter, packed with information about her favourite animal, the platypus. Inspired by her, let's take a closer look at the egg-laying, beaver-tailed, otter-footed, duck-billed platypus.



- With waterproof fur, streamlined bodies and flat tails, platypuses are perfectly adapted to their freshwater habitat. They even have skin that can cover their eyes, ears and nostrils when swimming underwater.
- Platypuses use electrical impulses to find their prey. This is called electroreception and allows them to hunt, no matter how murky the water is.
- Platypuses and echidnas are the only two mammals that lay eggs! Female platypuses burrow in to the riverbank when they are ready to have their young.
- They are one of the few species of venomous mammals. The male has a spur on his ankle to deliver painful venom to rival males or would-be attackers.
- The biggest threat to the platypus is the loss of habitat, especially from litter, land-clearing and dams that disrupt the natural water flow.

What is your favourite unusual animal? Send your stories and pictures to education@bornfree.org.uk (please ask your parent or guardian before getting in touch).

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