

# 11 - Platypus

Is a platypus a mammal? Is it a bird? Is it a reptile? YES! It also glows in the dark & has super powers! You think we're kidding but it turns out the PLATYPUS is one of the strangest and most fascinating creatures on earth!

Making an episode about the Platypus - which has the face & feet of a duck, the body of an otter, and the tail of a beaver - and that lays eggs like a reptile but has warm blood and milk like a mammal - got us thinking a philosophically over here at Who Smarted? HQ.

If the Platypus can somehow find a way to make so many different parts work -- why can't we as a society?

After all, what are our cities, communities, and countries if not a hodge-podge of different parts with different needs and agendas... just like our friend, the platypus?

It's our fervent hope that as a society, we can keep figuring out ways to work better, together.

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Two things to know from today's Platypus Episode:

The Platypus only shows up in the wild of Australia -- because Australia's remote location allows for the evolution of many strange and wonderful creatures.

The platypus has no teeth, so when it collects worms, insects, or shrimp to eat, it also takes in little bits of rock and shells and uses the pebbles to help grind up it's food.  
Something for You to share with your Kid:

While we were producing this episode this past week, scientists discovered that the platypus is biofluorescent. That means, you guessed it, they GLOW IN THE DARK! Only two other mammals do this - opossums, and the flying squirrel.

More fun platypus things your Kid can do to after the episode:

The platypus is made up of a duck's beak & feet, an otter's water-adapted body, and a beaver's tail. Ask your kids, if they could add a body part from an animal to their own body, what would it be and why?

In the episode we meet, Thor, the super cute new transfer student from Australia. He's also a Platypus! Have your kids draw a picture of Thor at school based on the description from the show.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast [www.WhoSmarted.com](http://www.WhoSmarted.com)