My Platypus Fact File

Read the platypus fact page, then fill in your fact file.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw a platypus

Platypus facts

Size: _____

Weight: _____

Lifespan: _____

Diet: _____

Habitat: _____

Where: _____

Status: _____

Match the word to its meaning

1. monotreme ____	A. a sense organ that can feel tiny electric signals in the water
2. electroreceptor ____	B. a harmful substance an animal can inject with a spur, sting or bite
3. venom ____	C. a tunnel or hole an animal digs in the ground to live or nest in
4. burrow ____	D. a name people often use for a baby platypus or echidna
5. puggle ____	E. a mammal that lays eggs, such as the platypus and the echidna

The most amazing thing I learned about platypuses

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Answer Key

Platypus Fact File

Platypus facts

Scientific name:	Ornithorhynchus anatinus
Size:	About 15–25 in (37–63 cm) long
Weight:	About 1.3–6.6 lb (0.6–3 kg)
Lifespan:	Up to about 20 years
Diet:	Insect larvae, shrimp, worms, snails
Habitat:	Rivers, creeks and lakes
Where:	Eastern Australia and Tasmania
Status:	IUCN Near Threatened

Accept any answer that matches the fact page; sizes and lifespans are approximate.

Word match

1–E, 2–A, 3–B, 4–C, 5–D

Wow facts to share

- It is a mammal that lays eggs instead of giving birth to live babies.
- Its bill senses the tiny electric signals made by moving prey.
- Male platypuses have a venomous spur on each back ankle.