

What Could It Be?

A Platypus, Probably - Grade 1 - One-sitting lesson

TIME

OBJECTIVE

PRODUCT

30 minutes Connect unusual platypus body parts to their actual functions and explain why the features fit the animal's life. Five chart rows linking body part, look-alike, and real job, plus an exit response. Essential question: What are all the platypus's strange parts for?

Materials

- The book
- Probably Chart
- Pencil Text to mark
- Whole-book first reading - bill, feet, fur, eggs, and milk

Lesson sequence

1 Guess from the question - 4 min Read only the opening question and collect guesses before revealing the title's answer. 2 Read once, all the way - 8 min Read aloud straight through. Students signal quietly whenever a body part sounds as if it belongs to another animal. 3 Build the chart - 7 min Complete the bill and feet rows together: body part, what it resembles, and its real job. 4 Three rows independently - 7 min Students complete fur, eggs, and milk from the book. 5 Anchor and out - 4 min Students answer: "What are all the platypus's strange parts for?" using one chart row as evidence.

Teacher key

Bill: senses touch/electrical signals and supports hunting with eyes and ears closed. Webbed feet: front feet paddle; hind feet and tail help steer. Fur: dense layers keep the animal warm. Eggs: the mammal lays eggs. Milk: reaches young without nipples, through skin/fur. Support & extension

Support:

Supply the look-alike entries and let students match/copy the real-job strips. Extension: Add what would go wrong without each feature and connect multiple rows to underwater survival.

Assessment

- Completes at least three accurate feature-function rows
- Distinguishes resemblance from actual function
- Uses one chart row to explain why a strange feature fits the platypus
- Avoids saying the parts are literally borrowed from other animals

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