Our planet is full of weird and wonderful creatures. Meet three of them – animals with surprising bodies, habits and abilities.

The animal that can't be true

When in 1798 zoologists in Britain first saw the skin of an Australian platypus and a drawing of the animal, they were sure it was a hoax. A creature like that could not exist. Why not? First, it has fur, like cats and dogs, but also a flat bill like a duck, and a big thick tail like a beaver. Secondly, it lays eggs and looks after them like a bird, but when the young come out of the eggs, the mother feeds them with her milk. On top of everything, the platypus has a poisonous sting – like a snake! It cannot kill a human, but it's very painful.

A platypus

1 Scientists thought the platypus could not be real because

A it had strange fur.

B its bill was a funny shape.

C the drawing they saw was poor quality.

D it had the body parts of different animals.

2 A platypus

A eats eggs.

B looks after its young in the same way as birds do.

C can hurt you.

D has a tail like a snake.

LIVEWORKSHEETS