

Odd, Egg-Laying Mammals

<https://www.livescience.com/5746-odd-egg-laying-mammals-exist.html>

Quick Start

- What word is used to classify mammals which lay eggs?
- How many are left on the planet?
- What similarities do they share with mammals?
- How long did the change from a platypus-like body form to an echidna-like body form take?

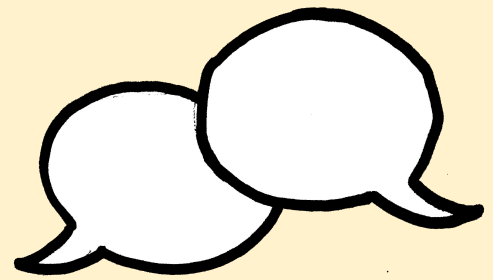
Vocabulary Check

- their bodies seem more efficient at locomotion
- The struggle marsupials presumably had with all the animals
- Platypuses are amphibious creatures, while echidnas — the anteaters — are terrestrial.
- This means echidnas recently had semi-aquatic predecessors and only later recolonized the land.
- a streamlined body, rearward-jutting hind limbs that could act as rudders, and the contours of a duck-like bill

Vocabulary Check

- The researchers conjecture that marsupials could not afford a substantial invasion of aquatic environments
- This hypothesis has been suggested before
- the most compelling evidence yet
- That such a major change in overall morphology could happen so quickly is intriguing.
- contradicts the common assumption that monotremes are living fossils

Partnered Talk



What makes the platypus and spiny anteater
different from other mammals?

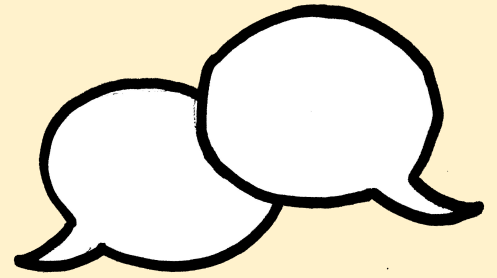
How do scientists explain this?

Individual Thinking



Explain the similarities between platypuses and echidnas.

Partnered Talk



What is the benefit of laying eggs as opposed to live young?

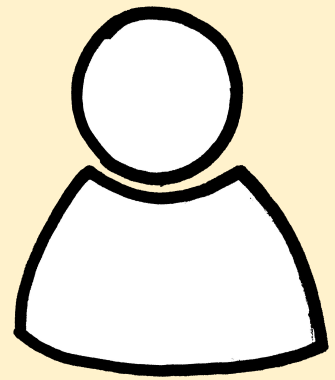
Individual Thinking



How have scientists been able to find out so much about the evolution of monotremes?

Why do you think it is important to learn about species that have changed or may now be extinct?

Solo Work



Fact Dump

Record any information you can remember from reading the text.

You will have 3 minutes to complete this without looking back at the text.