

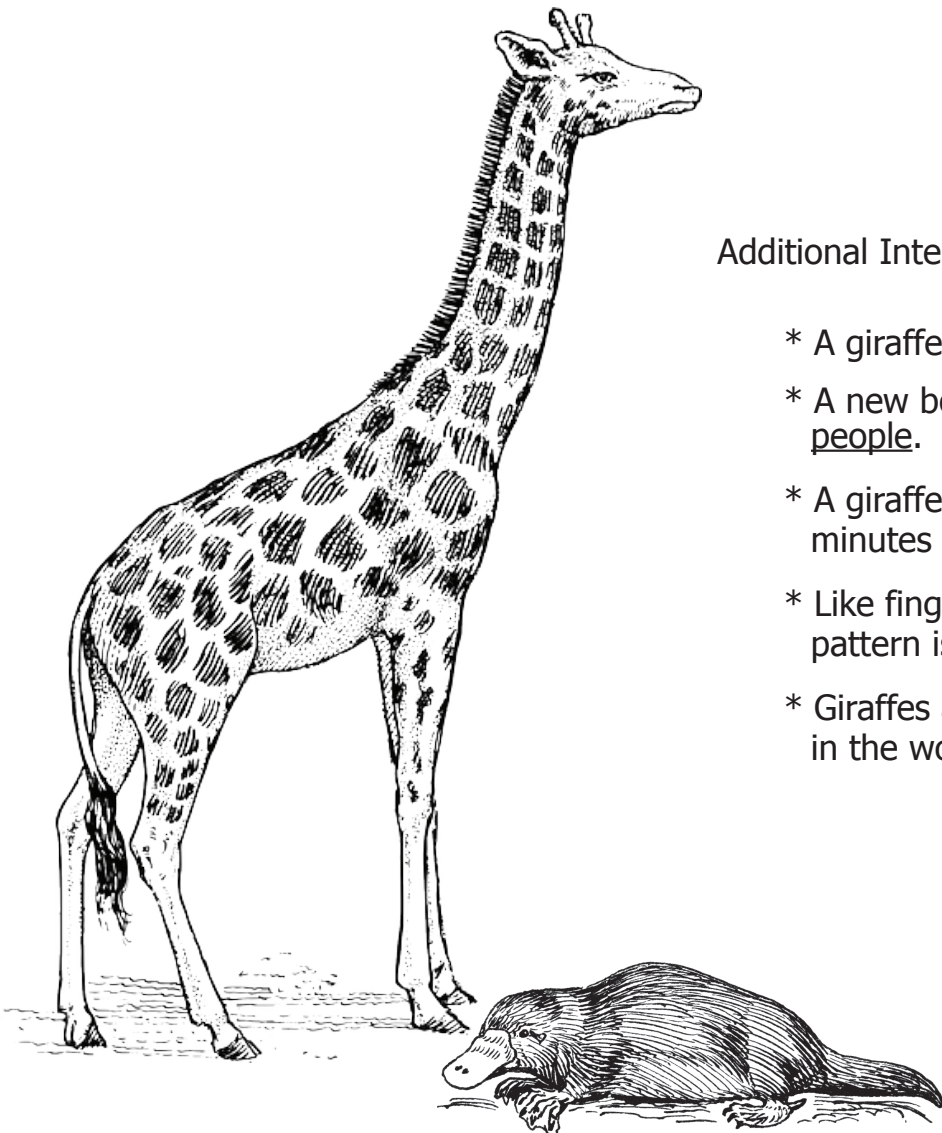
# The Giraffe and the Platypus

In reality, the giraffe and the platypus are rarely seen together. The giraffe lives in the grasslands of the African savanna, and the platypus hangs out in the fresh waters of Tasmania.

Giraffes are considered, in many circles to be far superior to the humble platypus. A giraffe can stand nearly 17 feet tall, allowing it to see further and reach more food sources. Beyond their notable height, giraffes are famous for their ability to give birth standing up. Can you imagine?

## Additional Interesting Facts:

- \* A giraffe leg can be up to 6 feet tall!
- \* A new born giraffe is taller than most people.
- \* A giraffe sleeps only between 10 minutes and 2 hours each day.
- \* Like fingerprints, each giraffe's spot pattern is unique.
- \* Giraffes are the tallest living animals in the world



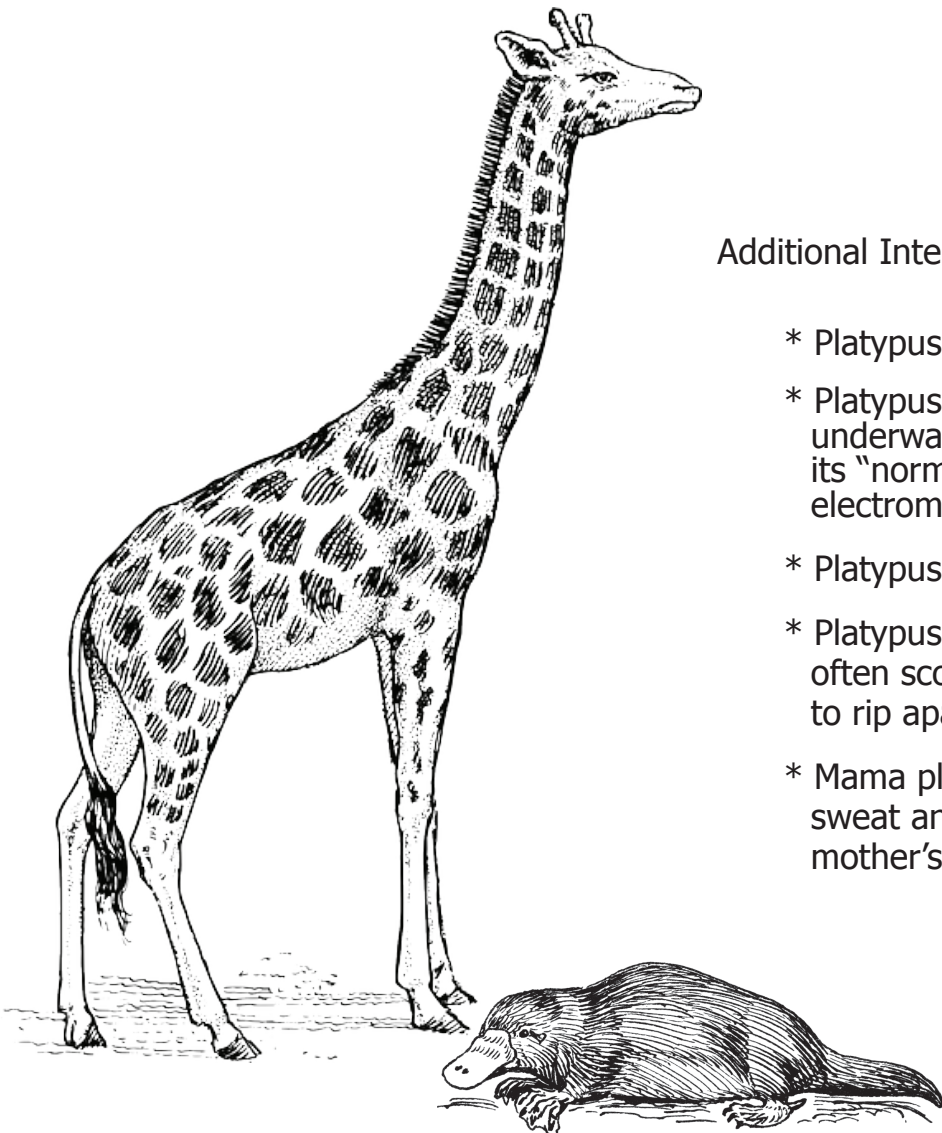
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In reality, the giraffe and the platypus are rarely seen together. Platypuses (not platypi) hangs out in the fresh water of Tasmania, and giraffes live in the grasslands of the African savanna.

Platypuses are considered by many to be far superior to the glorious giraffe. It's hard to discount the feisty platypus when you take into account that they are one of the only venomous mammals on earth. With poison stingers on the back of their feet, this is one animal that you don't want to mess with!

## Additional Interesting Facts:

- \* Platypuses are nocturnal
- \* Platypuses do most of their hunting underwater, where it shuts off all of its "normal" senses and acts off of electromagnetism
- \* Platypuses walk on their knuckles
- \* Platypuses have NO TEETH, so they often scoop up gravel with their bills to rip apart their food
- \* Mama platypuses secrete milk like sweat and babies lap it up from the mother's fur.



# Quiz Questions to Ask

- 1) In what kind of habitat does the giraffe roam?
- 2) What is one of the platypuses unique senses?
- 3) How many teeth do platypuses have inside their bills?
- 4) How do mama platypuses feed their young?
- 5) How do platypuses walk?

## Debrief:

Debrief with one or two questions:  
(save the rest for recall during discussion time)

Side 2: How did you feel about yourselves during this exercise?

Side 1: How did you feel about yourself during this exercise?

Side 1: Did you feel like you were very capable in the area of learning functional biology?

Side 1: Even though your background information was perfectly valid, and you were perfectly capable of learning the information that was given to you, how did you feel when the knowledge that was expected of you didn't match up with the knowledge that you had accumulated?

Can we draw any conclusions between this and a computer science classroom?

How might you expect that a child would feel if their history with technology has been focused on usage, when the other students have had experience creating it?

If a student hasn't received the same exposure to a specific topic in technology, should that give us reason to assume that they don't have the aptitude for it?

If a student doesn't relate to some other subject in school, does that give us reason to assume that computer science is not suitable for them?