

FACTUAL TEXT #1: The Echidna

The echidna (*ee-kid-nuh*) is a small animal that is found mainly in Australia. Echidnas are covered in two types of fur. One type of fur covers their body to keep them warm. The other type of fur looks like long, sharp spikes. This helps to protect them from predators. If another animal tries to eat them, they curl up into a ball showing just their spikes as protection. They have short legs so, like ducks, they waddle when they walk.



Echidnas eat ants, termites, grubs and worms. They have a pointy nose to help them locate their food under the ground. They use their sharp claws to dig into the soil, then lick up their food with their long, sticky tongue. They find shelter near rocks and under fallen trees.

The female echidna lays one soft egg into her pouch and after 10 days, a baby echidna (called a *puggle*) hatches. It stays in its mother's pouch until it grows spikes so it can protect itself. Echidnas are a special kind of animal called a *monotreme*. This means they are mammals that lay eggs.

1. Where are echidnas found?

all over the world.
mainly in Australia.
only in desert areas.
near coastal areas.

2. Why do echidnas roll up into a ball?

to go to sleep.
to dig into the soil.
to roll along the ground.
to protect themselves.

3. Which sentence is not true?

Echidnas eat insects and worms.
Echidnas are mammals.
Echidnas live under the ground.
Echidnas have long, sticky tongues.

4. The word 'puggle' refers to

male echidnas
baby echidnas
female echidnas
monotremes

5. Echidnas use their long pointy noses to

find their food.
dig in the soil.
smell predators.
help them find shelter.

6. When does a baby echidna hatch from its egg?

one day after it is laid.
when it has grown spikes.
10 days after it is laid.
when its mother's pouch is the right temperature.

