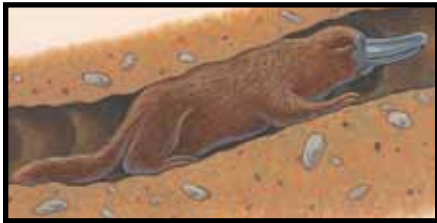


# For Creative Minds

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## Adaptation Matching Activity

All of the animals in this book are mammals, like us. Mammals are usually born alive and their babies drink milk from their mothers. Mammals have hair or fur, breathe air, and are warm blooded. All animals have behavioral or physical traits that help them adapt to their environment. Match the adaptations and descriptions to the animal:



1.

**a. Asian short-clawed otter:**

The smallest of all otters, they have webbed paws with short, blunt claws used for swimming and grabbing prey. They use about 12 different calls to communicate with one another.



2.

**b. Platypus:**

The duck-like bill is both a nose and a mouth and is packed with thousands of sensors to help find food. Their front feet are webbed like a duck's and their toes stretch into "paddles."



3.

**c. Boto dolphin:**

Their long beaks have sharp teeth to grab and hold onto fish and bristly hairs to "touch" things. They can turn their necks so they can look 90 degrees in any direction. These animals are endangered.



4.

**d. Capybara:**

These large rodents have eyes and ears close to the top of their heads so they can see and hear while swimming. They have four toes and some webbing on their front feet.

**e. Hippopotamus:**

These large animals have their eyes, ears, and nostrils high on their heads so they can stay in the water most of the day. Their pink sweat helps to protect their skin—kind of like a sunscreen!

**f. Indus River dolphin:**

Almost blind, these animals don't use their eyes to see in the dark river water, but they use a special type of hearing called echolocation. These animals are endangered and it is estimated that there are less than 1000 left.

**g. Mink:**

Their thick, water-repellant fur keeps them warm in cold weather. They use their partly-webbed feet to hunt underwater prey. They are about the size of a house cat.

**h. Beaver:**

They use their long, thick tails to help steer in the water and to slap the water to warn others of danger. Tails can grow to 10 - 16 inches long and can be 5 - 6 inches wide.

**i. River otter:**

Their webbed feet with claws help them to swim and to climb onto land. Their very thick fur keeps them warm in cold water. They have as many hairs in a single square inch as most people have on their whole heads!

**j. Water vole:**

Sometimes confused with brown rats, these animals live on river banks and are very territorial. They'll mark the outside of their territory by urinating.

5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



# River Map Activity

Indus River dolphin



Platypus



Asian short-clawed otter



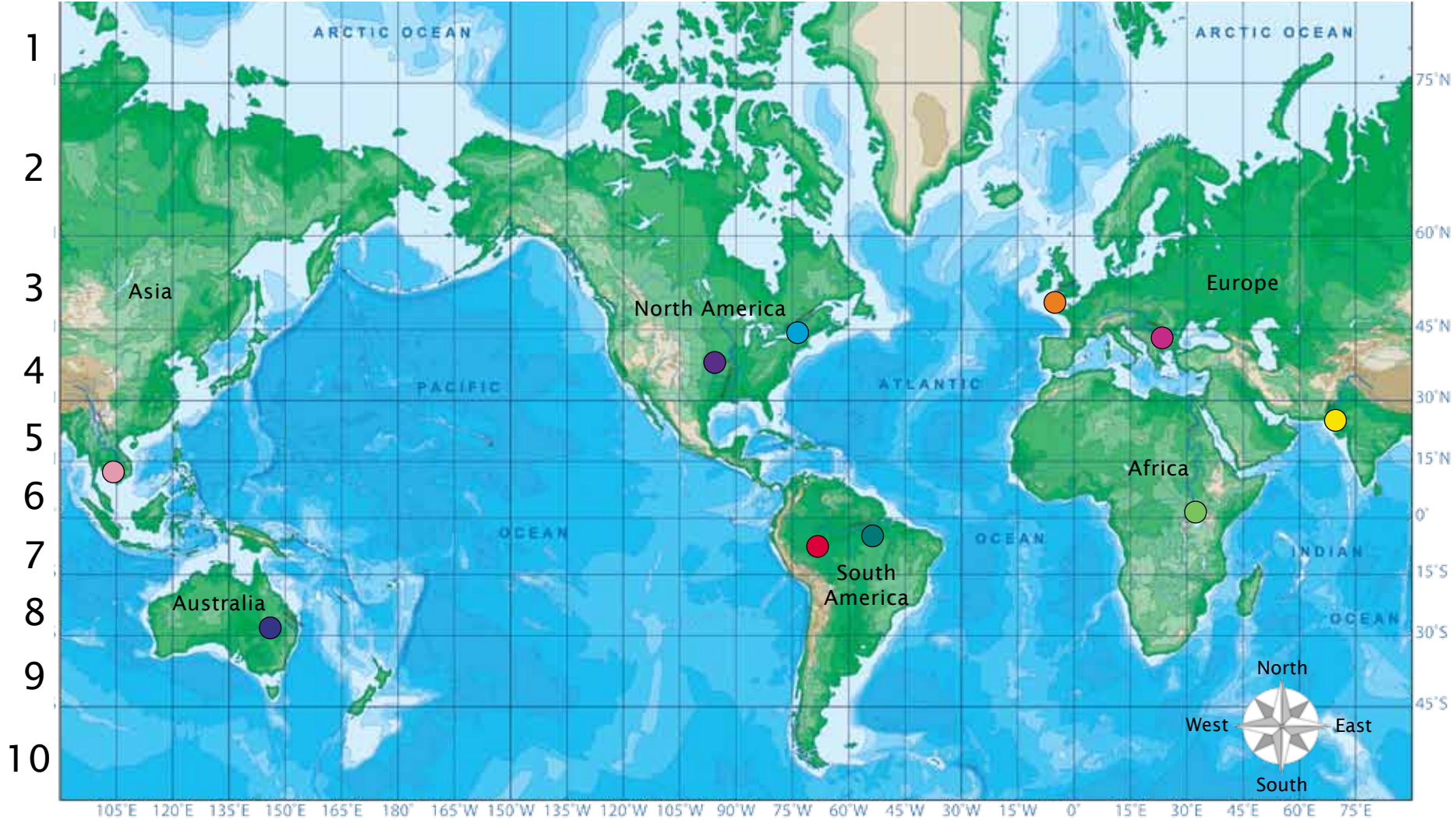
Capybara



Boto dolphin



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X



Water vole



Beaver



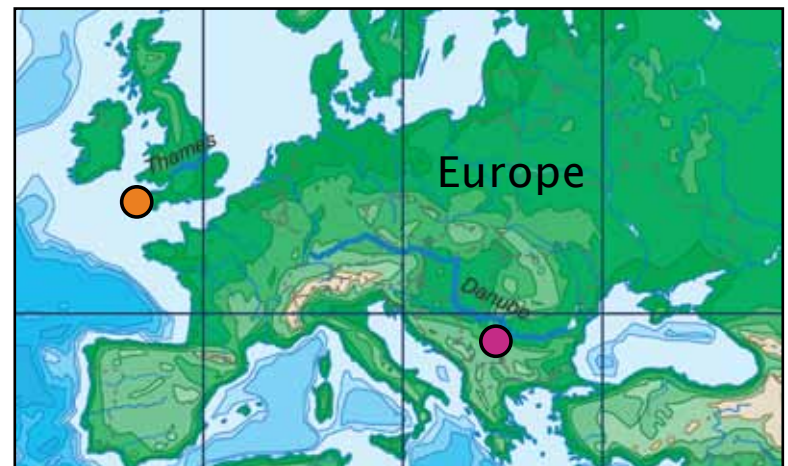
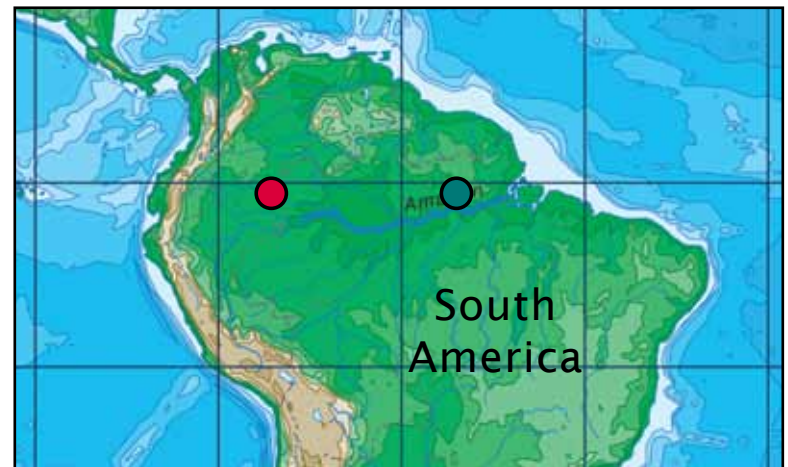
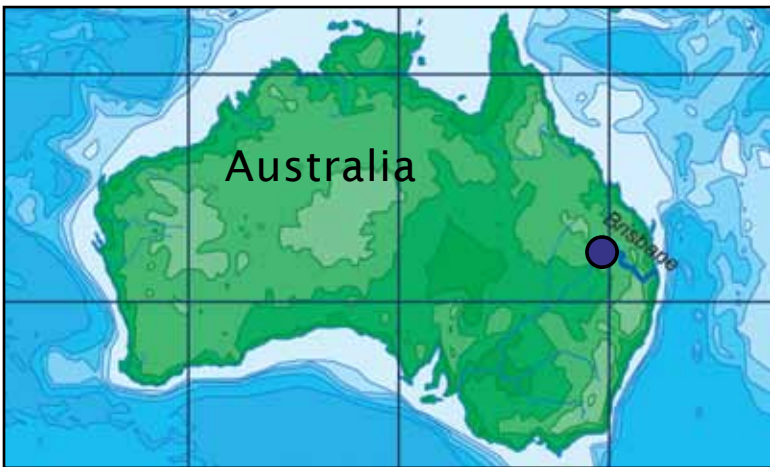
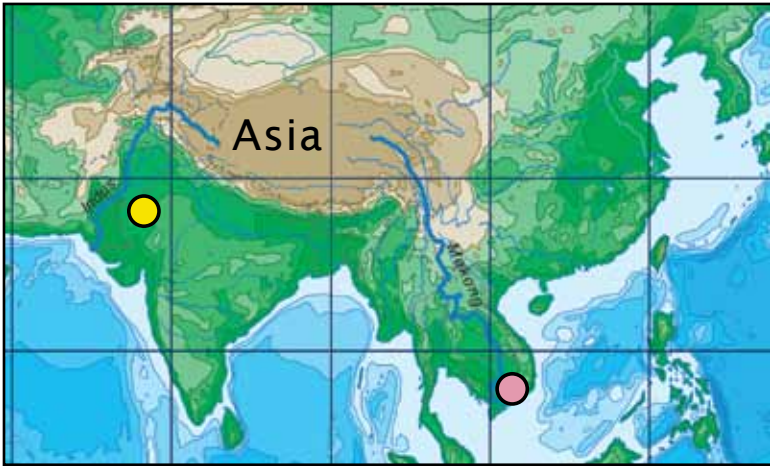
Mink



Hippopotamus



River otter



## Find the animals and their rivers on the map

**For young children:** Each animal has a colored rectangle around it that matches a similarly-colored dot on the map.

- Match the colors to find the river where each animal lives.
- On what continent are the rivers and animals found?
- On what continent do you live?
- What animal(s) in the book live(s) on the same continent as you do?
- Can you point to where you live on the map?



**For older children:** Use the coordinate grids (top and left of the map) or the lines of latitude (on the right) and longitude (on the bottom) to answer the questions below. Answers are upside down on the bottom of the page.

1. What animal is found in grid (R,3)?
2. Which other animal is found in Europe?
3. Which animal is found in Australia and at what grid coordinates?
4. Which South American animals live close to the equator (latitude 0°).
5. What animal is found in grid (U,6)?
6. The dot for the beaver is on what line of latitude?
7. What animal is found in grid (L,4)?



Answers: 1. water vole, 2. mink, 3. platypus at (D,8) or approximately 30° S, 150° E; 4. boto dolphin and capybara, 5. hippopotamus, 6. 45° N, 7. river otter.