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## Amazing Eggs

WE BOTH READ®

By Fran Hodgkins With illustrations by Wendy Smith

LEVEL







Child's Page



# Parent's Introduction

Whether your child is a beginning reader, a reluctant reader, or an eager reader, this book offers a fun and easy way to encourage and help your child in reading.

Developed with reading education specialists, *We Both Read* books invite you and your child to take turns reading aloud. You read the left-hand pages of the book, and your child reads the right-hand pages—which have been written at one of six early reading levels. The result is a wonderful new reading experience and faster reading development!

You may find it helpful to read the entire book aloud yourself the first time, then invite your child to participate the second time. As you read, try to make the story come alive by reading with expression. This will help to model good fluency. It will also be helpful to stop at various points to discuss what you are reading. This will help increase your child's understanding of what is being read.

In some books, a few challenging words are introduced in the parent's text, distinguished with **bold** lettering. Pointing out and discussing these words can help to build your child's reading vocabulary. If your child is a beginning reader, it may be helpful to run a finger under the text as each of you reads. Please also notice that a "talking parent"  $\bigcirc$  icon precedes the parent's text, and a "talking child"  $\bigcirc$  icon precedes the child's text.



If your child struggles with a word, you can encourage "sounding it out," but keep in mind that not all words can be sounded out. Your child might pick up clues about a word from the picture, other words in the sentence, or any rhyming patterns. If your child struggles with a word for more than five seconds, it is usually best to simply say the word.

Most of all, remember to praise your child's efforts and keep the reading fun. After you have finished the book, ask a few questions and discuss what you have read together. Rereading this book multiple times may also be helpful for your child.

Try to keep the tips above in mind as you read together, but don't worry about doing everything right. Simply sharing the enjoyment of reading together will increase your child's reading skills and help to start your child off on a lifetime of reading enjoyment!

#### We Both Read: Amazing Eggs

With special thanks to Alicia Goode at the California Academy of Sciences for her review and recommendations on the material in this book.

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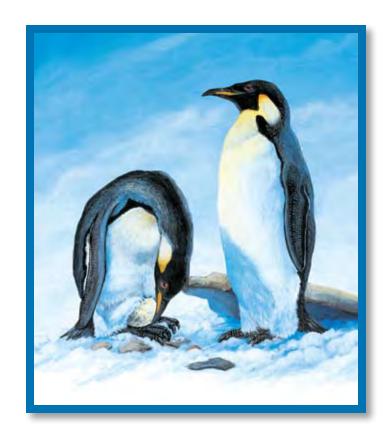
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### **Amazing Eggs**

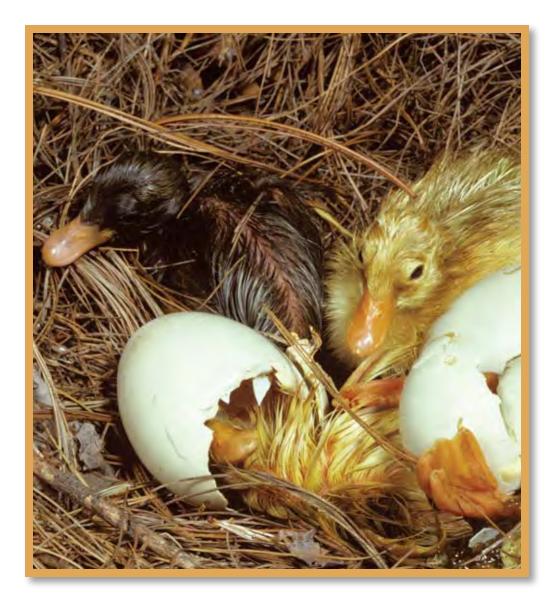
WE BOTH READ



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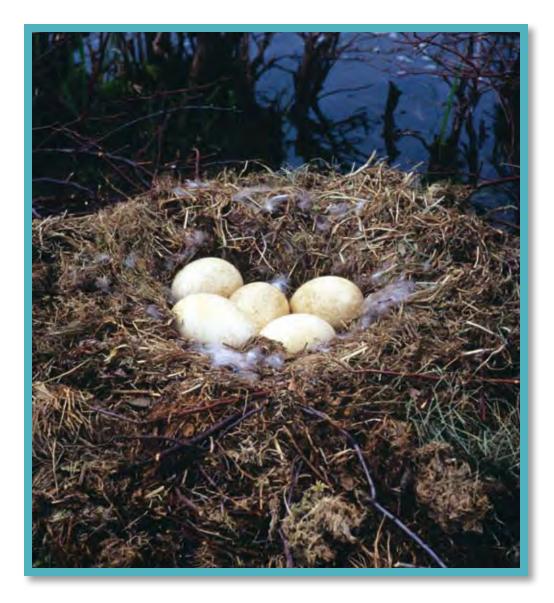
G Before you were born, you grew inside your mother. Your mother's body kept you safe and gave you everything you needed to grow. But most animals don't grow inside of their mothers. Instead, they hatch from eggs. The egg has everything the baby needs to grow. The shell helps keep the baby safe.



There are over 9,000 types, or species, of birds, and they all hatch from eggs. Bird eggs come in many shapes and sizes. A hummingbird egg is the size of a pea while an ostrich egg is the size of a large grapefruit.



Some bird eggs are blue.
Some have spots.



Most birds build nests to hold their eggs. Nests can be made from sticks, grass, string, hair, or other materials the birds have **found**. Sometimes they are lined with soft feathers or plant fluff. Perhaps you have spotted a nest in your own backyard!

Nests can be **found** in trees. Some are **found** on the ground.



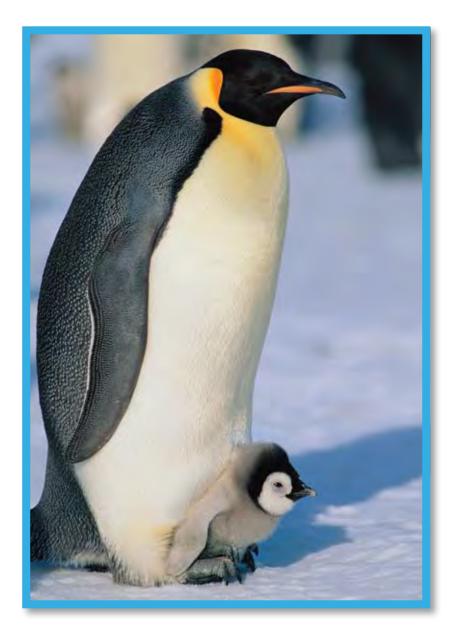
G Bird eggs have hard shells. The hard shell and shape of the eggs make them strong enough for the **parent** bird to sit on them. Sitting on the eggs keeps them warm until the baby chicks are ready to hatch.



### ○ After they hatch, the chicks are fed by their parents.



One bird that does not build a nest for its eggs is the emperor penguin. A female emperor penguin lays only one egg at a time. The male penguin keeps the egg warm until it **hatches** by holding the egg on its feet and tucking it under a thick flap of skin.



It takes nine weeks for the egg to hatch.



Birds aren't the only animals that lay eggs.
 Most reptiles do too.

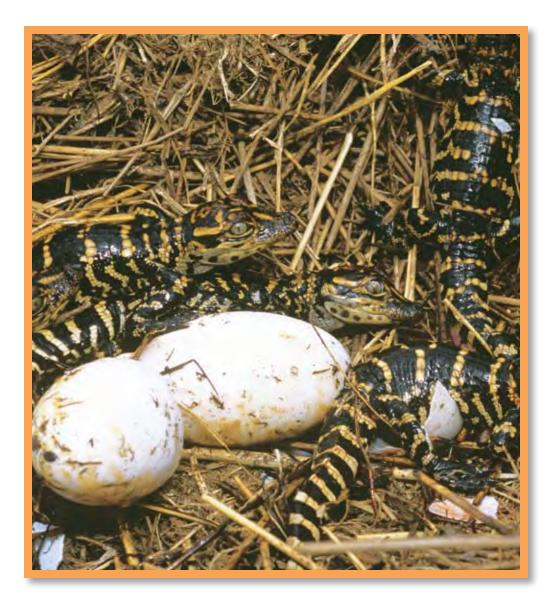
Reptiles are a group of animals that have dry, scaly skin, breathe air, and are cold blooded. Reptiles include all types of snakes, lizards, turtles, and alligators.



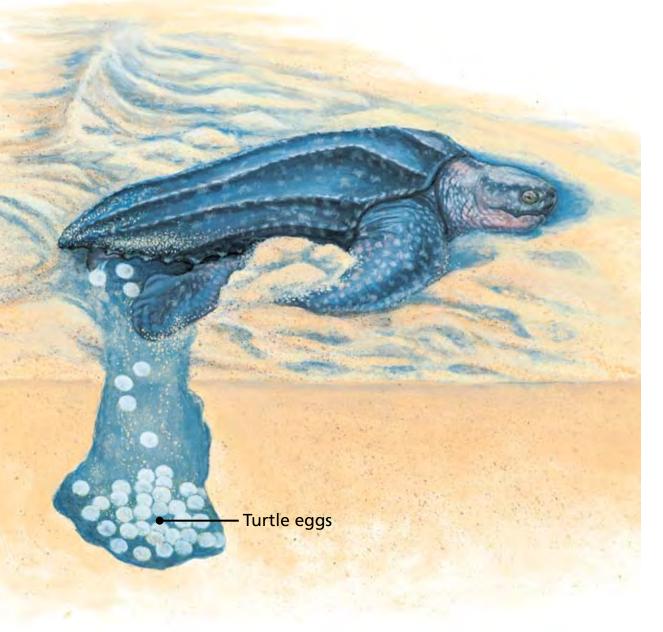
 Bird eggshells are hard.
 Most reptile eggshells are soft.



Alligators build nests and lay eggs in them just like birds. But alligators don't sit on their eggs. Instead, they cover them with dirt and debris to keep them warm. A mother alligator fiercely protects her eggs against anything that may try to harm them.



Alligators cry out when they hatch. The mother then digs up the nest to let them out.



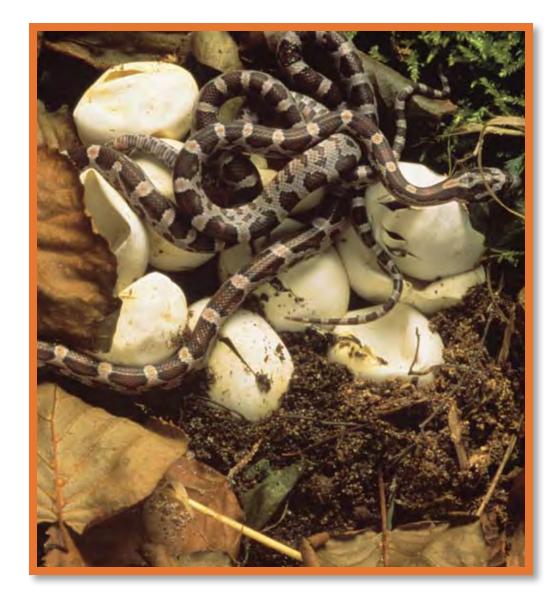
Sea **turtles** come up onto the beach to dig deep holes, where they deposit their eggs. They bury the eggs in sand to keep them warm and hide them from other animals. Then the mother turtle returns to the sea, and the eggs are left to hatch on their own.



The baby turtles dig out of the nest. Then they run to the sea!



 The shell of a snake egg is soft and tough, making it difficult for the snake to break out.
 So, as a young snake develops inside the egg, it grows a sharp "egg tooth" on the tip of its snout.



The tooth rips the shell to let the snake out. Then the tooth falls off.



Amphibians, such as frogs, toads, and salamanders, are another group of animals that **lay** eggs. Amphibian eggs are different from bird and reptile eggs. They are small and have no shells to protect them. Amphibians lay their eggs in places that are damp, or in the **water**.



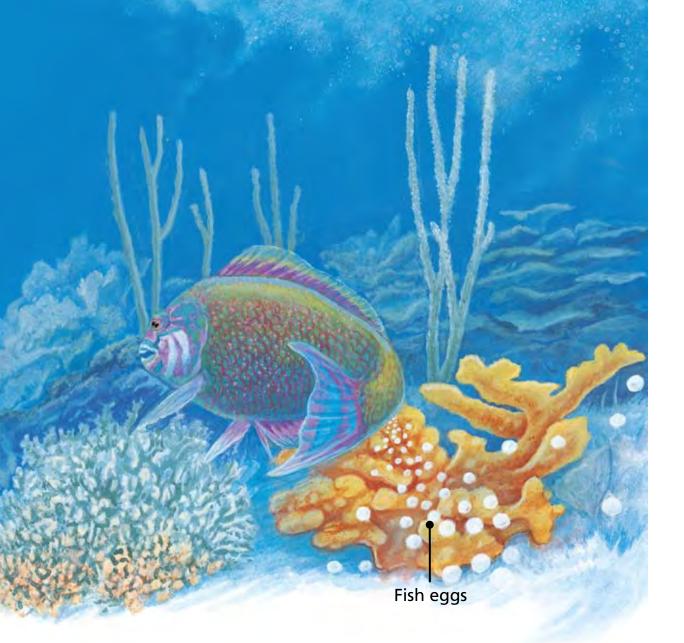
Most frogs lay eggs in water. The eggs look and feel like jelly.



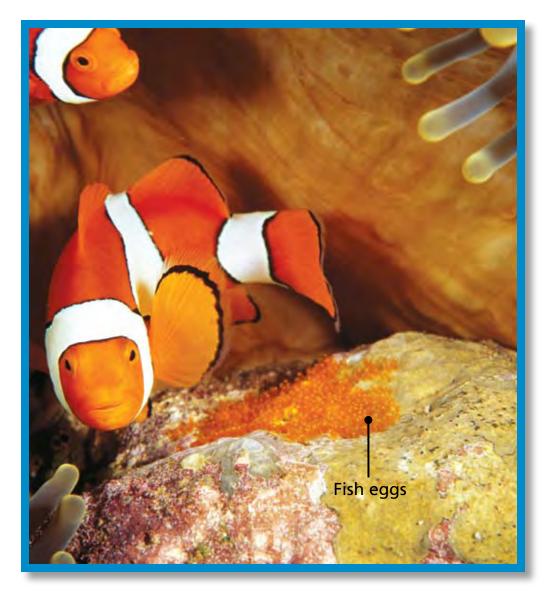
Frogs don't look much like frogs when they first hatch. Instead, they look like little fish and are called *tadpoles*. Soon they grow hind legs and then front legs. Then their tails disappear.



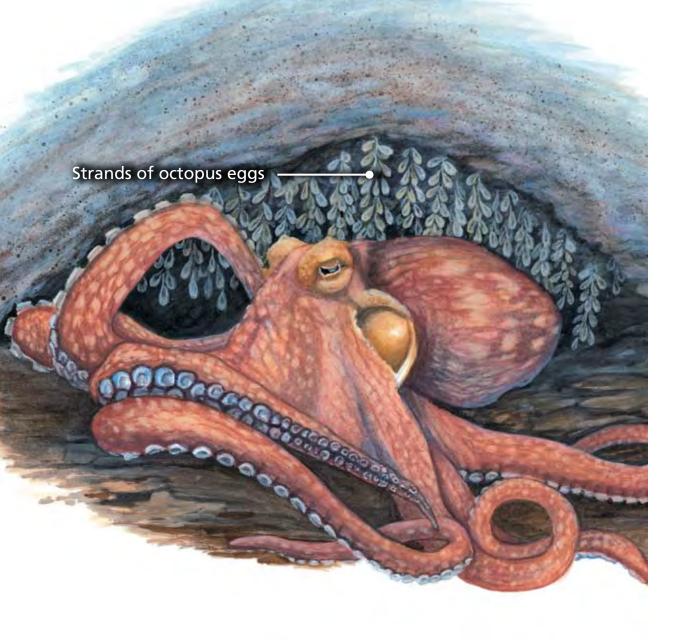
Control Then they look like frogs. They can jump out of the water.



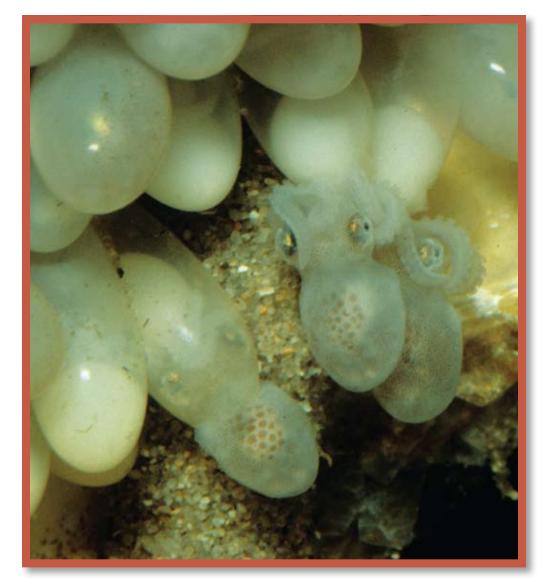
G Fish are another group of animals that lay their eggs in water. Some lay one egg at a time. Others can lay millions of eggs at once. Some fish eggs are very light, and they float through the water to hatch far away from where they were first laid.



Other fish eggs sink. They hatch close to where they were laid.



Most of the animals in the ocean lay eggs. The octopus lays its eggs in a sheltering sea cave. The mother octopus stays with the eggs to protect them from other sea creatures.



 These octopus babies are just hatching. Some octopus babies are as small as a fly.

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Certain **sharks** lay eggs that are unique. They are rectangular and have long tendrils or coils. These tendrils grab hold of seaweed or rocks to keep the egg from traveling.

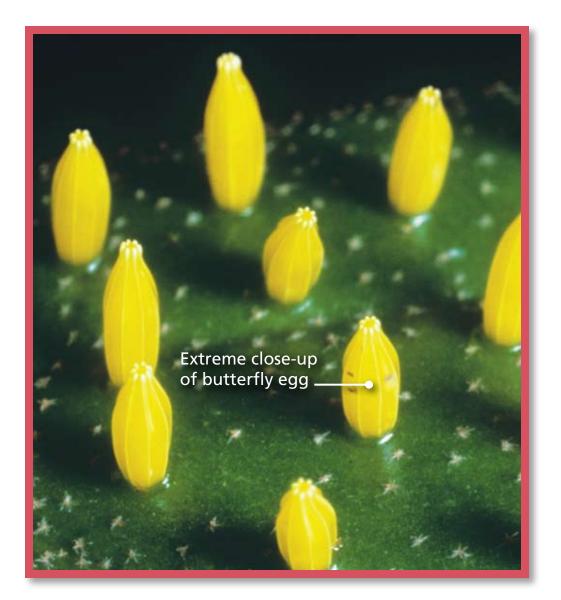
These eggs are often called *mermaid purses.* Can you guess why?

## Some sharks hatch from eggs. Some do not.



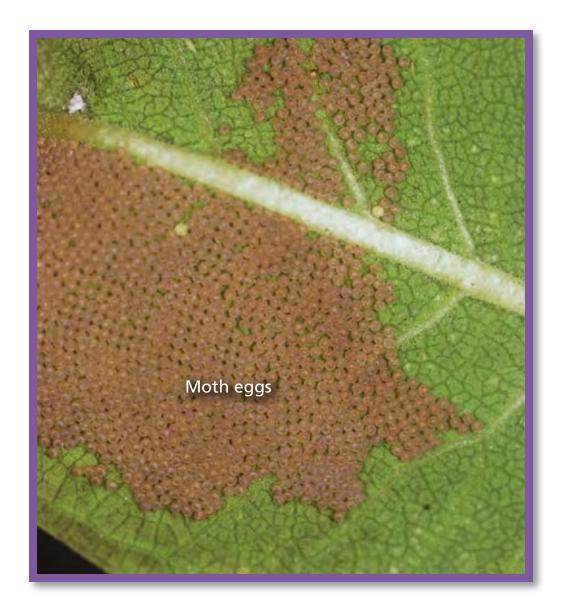




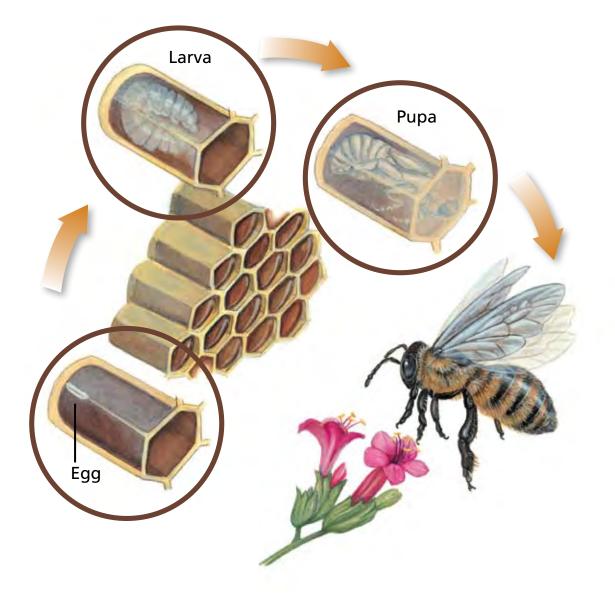


linsects are the largest group of animals on Earth, and almost all of them lay eggs.

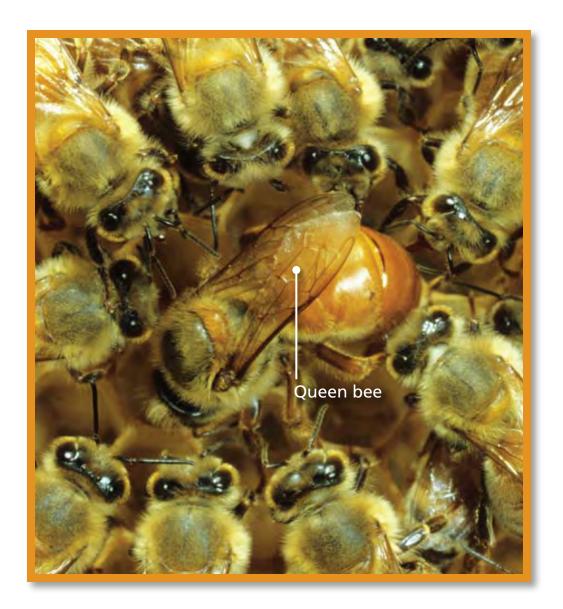
Have you ever seen an insect egg? Most are very tiny, but if you had a magnifying glass, you would see that some are very colorful and pretty.



Many insects lay eggs on plants. The eggs may just look like spots of dirt.



Bees lay their eggs in a hive. When a bee egg hatches, the bee first comes out as a worm-like *larva*. The larva matures into a *pupa* that looks like a white bee. Several days later it becomes a bee like the ones we see in our gardens.



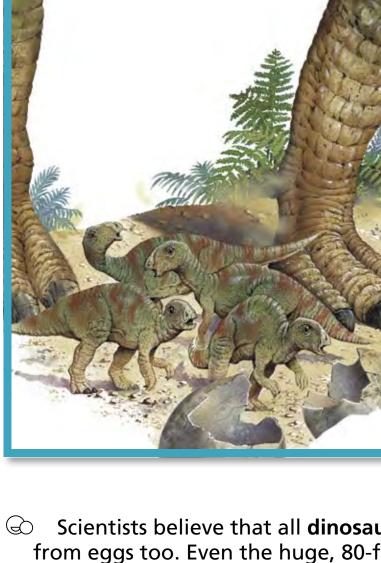
One bee lays all of the eggs in a hive. She is the queen bee.



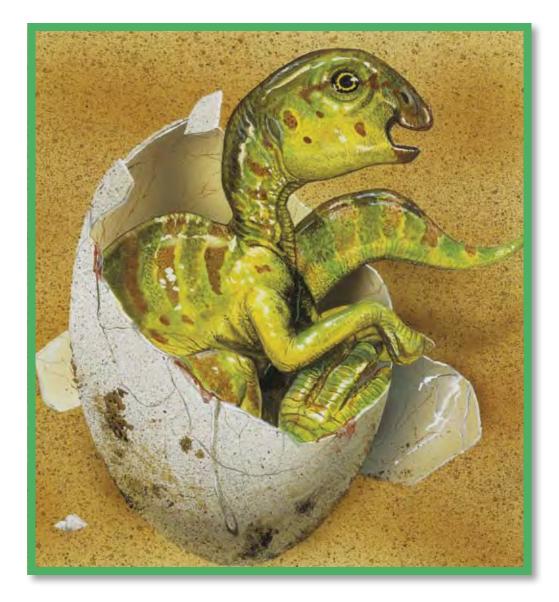


G Humans belong to a group of animals called *mammals.* Most mammals do not lay eggs, but there are a couple of exceptions. One of these is the **platypus**.

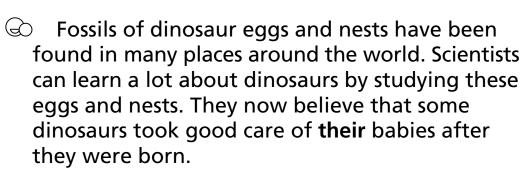
A platypus looks like a beaver with a duck's bill. Like beavers and ducks, it spends much of its time in the water. The platypus lays its eggs on land.



Scientists believe that all dinosaurs hatched from eggs too. Even the huge, 80-foot-long brachiosaurus (brā'kē ə sôr əs) started its life as a hatchling!



Some dinosaur eggs were small and round. Some were big and oval.



Some dinosaurs left their eggs to hatch alone.

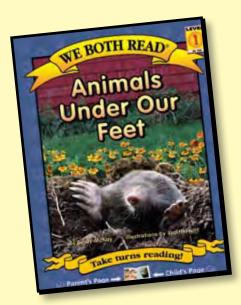


Platypus

### <sup>C</sup> Eggs are amazing!

© Eggs come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. They grow into tiny birds, giant turtles, colorful insects, and furry platypuses. Some are hard and some are soft. Some are big and some are so tiny that you can barely see them. But one thing is always the same.

If you liked **Amazing Eggs**, here is another We Both Read<sup>®</sup> Book you are sure to enjoy!



#### **Animals Under Our Feet**

This book takes a close look at many animals that live or spend much of their life underground. It provides interesting information about why the animals go underground and how they live there. Animals covered in the book include the desert tortoise, moles, ants, meerkats, armadillos, burrowing owls, and many more. To see all the We Both Read books that are available, just go online to www.WeBothRead.com.

### Helps Make Reading Fun & Easy!

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Introducing the easy and enjoyable way to encourage and help children to read! We Both Read is designed to invite parents and children to share the reading of a book by taking turns reading aloud. Parents read the left-hand pages, and children read the righthand pages, which have text written at one of six early reading levels. Developed with reading education specialists, this delightful series brings parents and children together for a wonderful new reading experience and faster reading development!

"We Both Read is the series we have all been waiting for: books that enable parents to help their children learn to read while having fun together. This is the most appealing and effective innovation for young readers that I have seen in many years!"

> — Thelma Reese, Ed.D., Reading Education Specialist and former Chairperson of the Children's Literacy Initiative

### **Amazing Eggs**

Enter the fascinating world of eggs and hatchlings! Birds hatch from eggs, and so do reptiles, amphibians, fish, and insects. Even dinosaurs came from eggs! Look inside and learn about some of the most amazing animals on the planet and how they begin their lives—hatching from an egg.

See all the We Both Read Books that are available at www.WeBothRead.com



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