Mission: Platypus Rescue

Agent name: _____ **Class:** _____ **Date:** _____ **Score:** ____ / 50

Your mission: Chef Gourmand cooks endangered animals. He is in Australia, and he wants platypus eggs for his menu. Watch *Platypus Cafe* (Wild Kratts, Season 1), collect the evidence and help stop him.

Part 1: Before You Watch

A. Fact or Fake? Circle your guess. You will check your answers after the episode. (6 points)

#	Statement	Your guess
1	A platypus is a mammal that lays eggs.	FACT / FAKE
2	Platypuses live in the Arctic.	FACT / FAKE
3	A male platypus has venom on its back legs.	FACT / FAKE
4	A platypus hunts underwater with its eyes wide open.	FACT / FAKE
5	A platypus bill is hard, like a duck's bill.	FACT / FAKE
6	A platypus can sense the electricity from its prey.	FACT / FAKE

B. Mission Vocabulary. Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter. (8 points)

Word	Letter		Letter	Meaning
1. den	___		a	to find something that is hidden
2. yabby	___		b	to take a person by force
3. sense	___		c	a small freshwater animal, like a mini lobster
4. detect	___		d	an animal's home, often underground
5. flood	___		e	to save someone from danger
6. kidnap	___		f	a way to see, hear, smell, taste or touch

Word	Letter		Letter	Meaning
7. rescue	___		g	a person who cooks food in a restaurant
8. chef	___		h	when too much water covers the land

Part 2: While You Watch

A. Mission Log. Answer with a short sentence. (6 points)

1. Where are Chris and Martin at the start, and what are they doing?
2. What amazing animal do they find?
3. What does Chef Gourmand want to do with the eggs?
4. How does Gourmand get the eggs?
5. What happens to Chris?
6. What special power must Martin copy to save the day?

B. Crime Scene Timeline. Put the events in order, 1 to 6. (6 points)

Order	Event
___	Martin uses platypus powers to rescue Chris and the eggs.
___	Gourmand floods the den and takes the eggs.
___	Chris and Martin go kayaking in Australia.
___	Martin and Aviva work out the platypus's "sixth sense."
___	Gourmand kidnaps Chris.
___	The brothers meet a mother platypus and her eggs.

Evidence Locker (not scored). Write the funniest moment and the most surprising fact you saw.

Funniest: _____

Most surprising: _____

Part 3: Senses Lab

The big idea of this episode: **different senses give different information.** The platypus has one that humans don't.

A. Crack the Code. Fill each gap with a word from the bank. (4 points)

Word bank: bill / closed / prey / sixth

Underwater, a platypus keeps its eyes, ears and nose _____. It uses its _____ to detect tiny electric signals from _____, like yabbies. Scientists call this its _____ sense.

B. Blindfold Challenge (pairs). Partner A closes their eyes. Partner B puts five objects in A's hands, one at a time. A has 10 seconds per object. Switch roles. (4 points)

Object	Sense you used	Correct?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Complete the sentences:

- Without my eyes, I used my _____ and my _____ instead.
- The hardest part was _____ because _____.
- A platypus is better than a human at hunting in the dark because _____.

Part 4: After You Watch

A. Mission Report (past simple). Write six sentences that tell the story. Start with First, Then, After that, Next, Later and Finally. (8 points)

Verb help: go, find, flood, steal, kidnap, work out, rescue

1. First, _____
2. Then, _____
3. After that, _____
4. Next, _____
5. Later, _____
6. Finally, _____

B. Court Case: Gourmand v. The Animals. Gourmand says, "I am a chef. I cook what I want!" Write 3 sentences: do you agree? Use the phrases *I think…*, *In my opinion…*, *For example…*, *However…* (4 points)

C. Design Your Creature Power Suit. Pick any animal with a cool sense or ability. Plan your suit. (4 points)

Suit file	Your design
Animal	
Suit name	
Special power	
How it works	It can _____ because it has _____.
Mission it helps with	

Draw your suit in the box below:

┌──┐ | | | | | |
└──┘

Final check: Go back to Part 1A. Check your guesses with the answer key. How many did you get right? ____ / 6

Answer Key and Teacher Notes (remove before printing)

1A. 1 Fact · 2 Fake (eastern Australia) · 3 Fact · 4 Fake (eyes, ears and nose are shut underwater) · 5 Fake (soft, rubbery and very sensitive) · 6 Fact

1B. 1 d · 2 c · 3 f · 4 a · 5 h · 6 b · 7 e · 8 g

2A. (1) In Australia, kayaking. (2) A mother platypus with her eggs. (3) Put the eggs on his menu. (4) He floods the den and steals them. (5) He is kidnapped (as a "side dish"). (6) The platypus's sixth sense, its electric sense.

2B. Order: kayaking 1 · meet the platypus 2 · den flooded, eggs taken 3 · Chris kidnapped 4 · sixth sense worked out 5 · rescue 6. Check this order against your own viewing, because the first three events happen close together.

3A. closed · bill · prey · sixth

3B and Part 4. Open answers. Accept any sensible sense (touch, hearing, smell) and any grammatically correct past simple retelling.

Scoring: 1A 6 · 1B 8 · 2A 6 · 2B 6 · 3A 4 · 3B 4 · 4A 8 · 4B 4 · 4C 4 = 50.

Timing (about 55 min): Part 1 (8 min), watch the 26-minute episode with Part 2 (30 min), Part 3 and Part 4 (15 min), or set 4B and 4C as homework. For A1/A2 groups, skip 4A and 4B. For B1 groups, ask for 4A in full and extend 4B into a spoken debate.

Heads up: *Platypus Cafe* is episode 6 of Season 1, not the first. The first episode is "Mom of a Croc."

Sources: Wild Kratts episode list · PBS/RMPBS episode page · TheTVDB season 1