

PUGGLE'S PROBLEM

BY ALEESAH DARLISON

CLASSROOM RESOURCE

Puggle's Problem



**A PICTURE BOOK
AGES 3 - 7 YEARS**

BOOK BLURB

Pipp Puggle is a tiny echidna with a big problem. Although he's good at doing lots of things, like: hunting ants, curling into a ball, and building terrifically tidy burrows, Pipp's spines simply will not come. Tired of waiting for them to appear, Pipp sets out on a quest to make them grow. But he soon learns that some things can't be rushed ... This is a gentle, humorous tale emphasising the importance of perseverance and patience. It also showcases some of Australia's best-loved native animals and their unique characteristics.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Aleesah Darlison



Aleesah Darlison is an award-winning author of over 50 books for children. She has won or been shortlisted for numerous awards including the Environment Award for Children's Literature, the CBCA Eve Pownall Award, and the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards. Many of Aleesah's books champion the cause of animals, the environment, and child self-empowerment.

INCLUSIONS

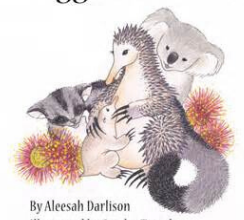
- About the Author
- Echidna Fact Sheet
- Writing Exercise
- Crossword Puzzle
- Colouring In Page

BUY THE BOOK

Purchase the book at
www.wombatbooks.com.au.

You can also find more Classroom Resources on Aleesah Darlison's website
www.aleesahdarlison.com.

Puggle's Problem



By Aleesah Darlison
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Fast Fact!

Echidnas are monotremes – one of only two found in Australia. Do you know what the other one is?

ECHIDNA FACT SHEET

- The scientific name for an echidna is *Tachyglossus aculeatus* (which means spiny fast-tongue or spiny anteater).
- There are two types of echidna: the short-beaked and the long-beaked.
- Echidnas are warm-blooded mammals.
- Echidnas can live for up to fifty years.
- Each of the echidna's spines is formed from a single hair.
- An echidna can lift objects twice its weight.
- Echidnas like to bask in the sun like reptiles. They also lay eggs like reptiles. The eggs incubate for 10 days inside the mother's pouch before hatching.
- A baby echidna is called a puggle. Puggles are born blind and hairless.
- Puggles drink milk. Echidna milk is pink because of the high iron content.
- Ancestors of echidnas roamed the planet with dinosaurs. Dinosaurs died out but monotremes are still alive.
- Echidnas are active day and night and are mainly solitary animals.
- Echidnas are strong diggers and they have long, sharp claws.
- Short-beaked echidnas eat ants and termites. Long-beaked echidnas eat worms and insect larvae.
- Echidnas have a small mouth and toothless jaw. They have a long, sticky tongue which sticks out from its snout.
- Echidnas drink water and can swim.



A baby echidna is called a puggle.





PUGGLE'S PROBLEM WRITING EXERCISE

After reading the book, you'll see that there is a repeating question that Pipp asks each animal he comes across in the bush. Choose your own Australian native animal and think about their unique features or abilities. Give this animal a name, create a question that Pipp can ask them, and the answer they might give. Just like the animals in the book. Then fill in the blanks below.

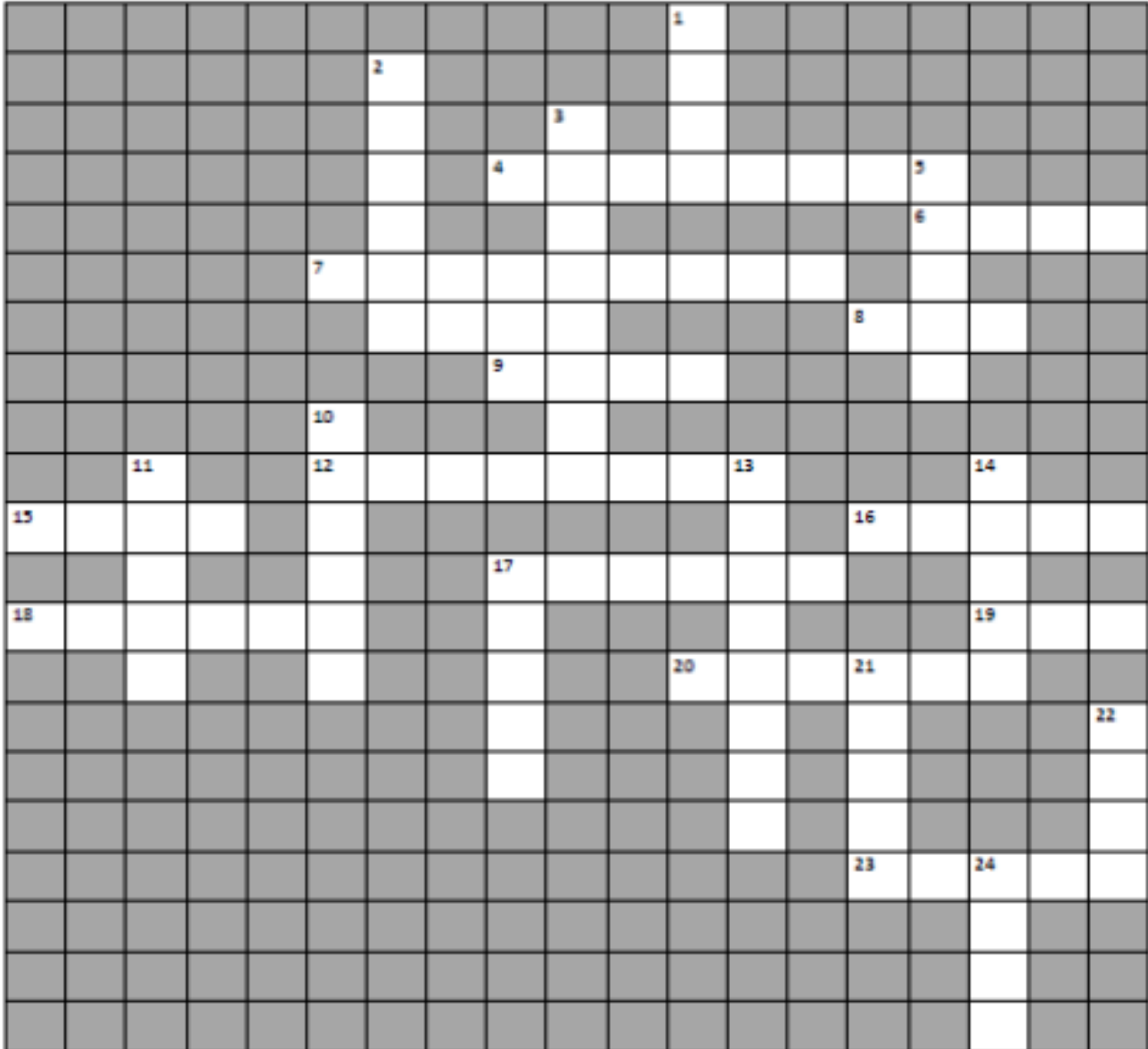
Pipp asked _____ the _____, "How did you get your
_____?"

I _____ every day, " _____ said. "Perhaps _____
will work for your spines."

Draw your animal here



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH THIS FUN ECHIDNA CROSSWORD!



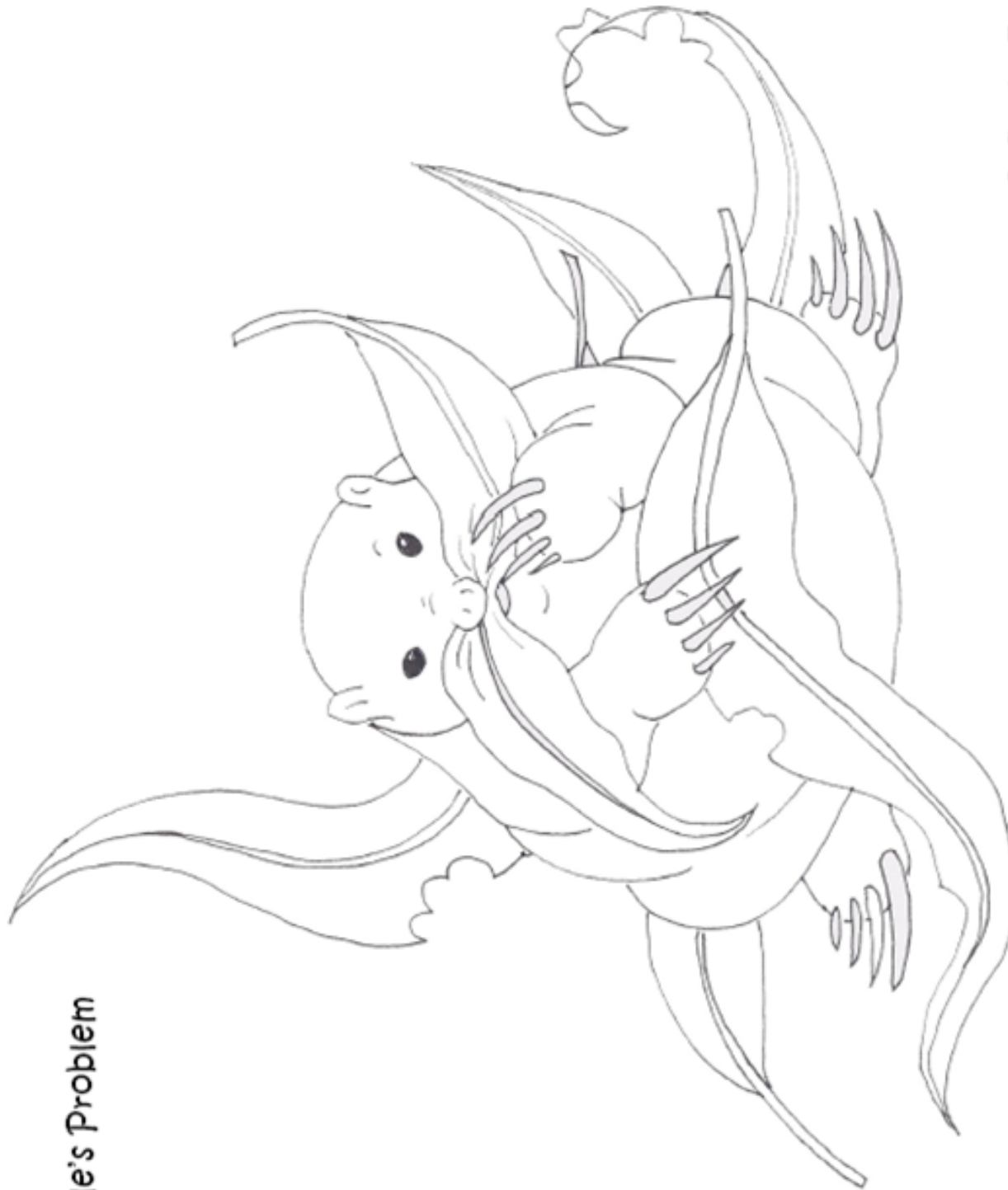
Across

4. Echidna's favourite food.
6. The colour of echidna milk.
7. The term for an egg laying mammal.
8. The number of babies an echidna usually has at one time.
9. Another name for the echidna's long nose.
12. Another monotreme.
15. A puggle's first food.
16. What echidna spines really are.
17. What a baby echidna is called.
18. Echidnas have a very long ... which they use to lick up their food.
19. Number of days an echidna egg incubates.
20. An echidna's tongue is long and ...
23. Echidnas have a very keen sense of ...

Down

1. Echidnas are ... blooded.
2. Where an echidna lives.
3. Echidna eggs are soft-shelled and ...
5. Echidnas are also called ... anteaters.
10. Echidnas use these to protect themselves.
11. Baby echidnas are born ...
13. Likes to live alone.
14. An echidna grows up to ... cms long.
17. Where baby echidnas spend the first few months of their life.
21. Echidnas use these to burrow into the ground.
22. When frightened, echidnas may ... into a ball.
24. Echidnas lay these.

PUGGLE'S PROBLEM COLOURING IN PAGE



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