

Meet the Manatees



Activity Pack

Grades: 3-5

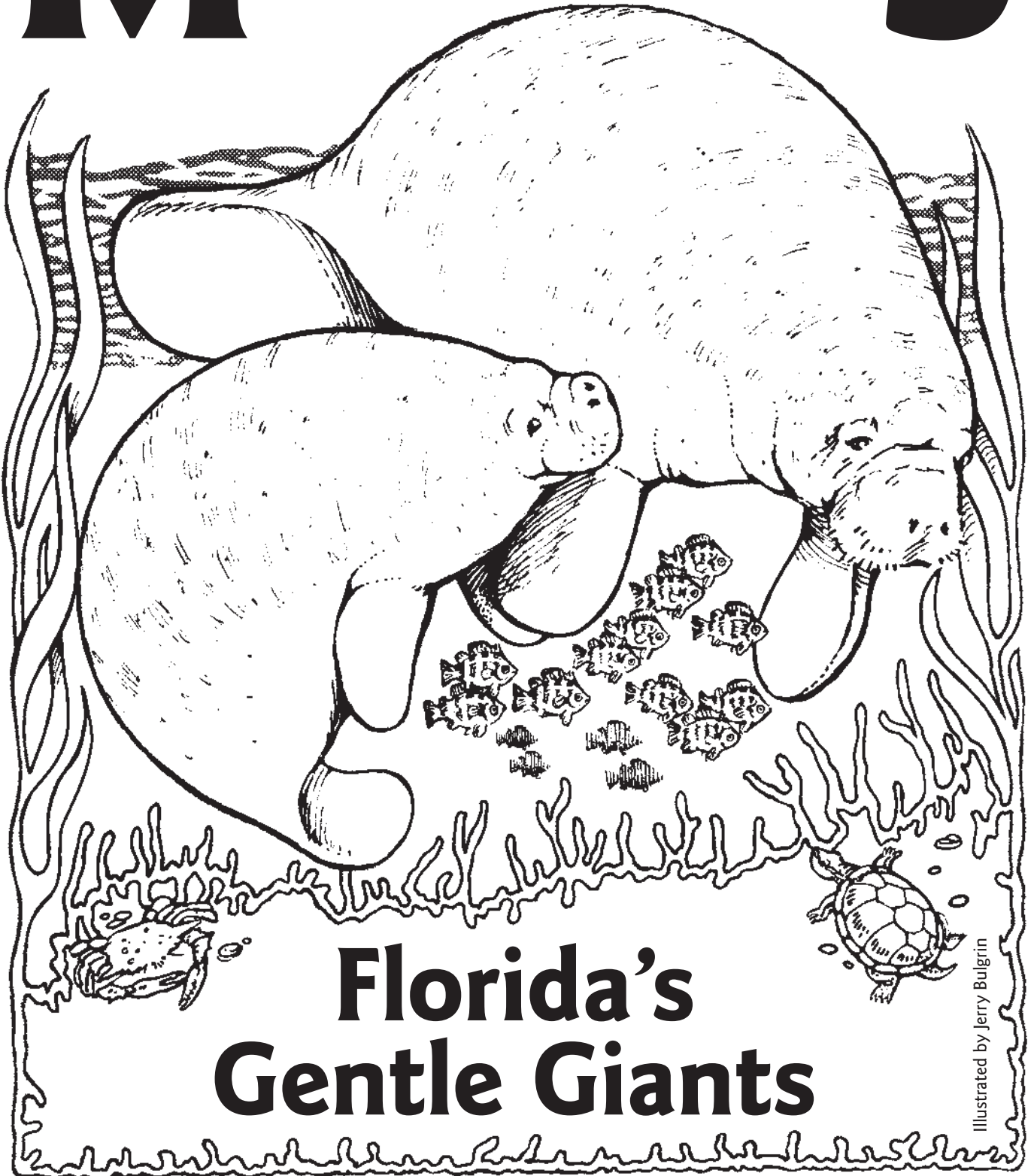
Objective: Students can take a break with this activity pack about manatees.

Source: Save the Manatee



A COLORING AND ACTIVITY BOOK

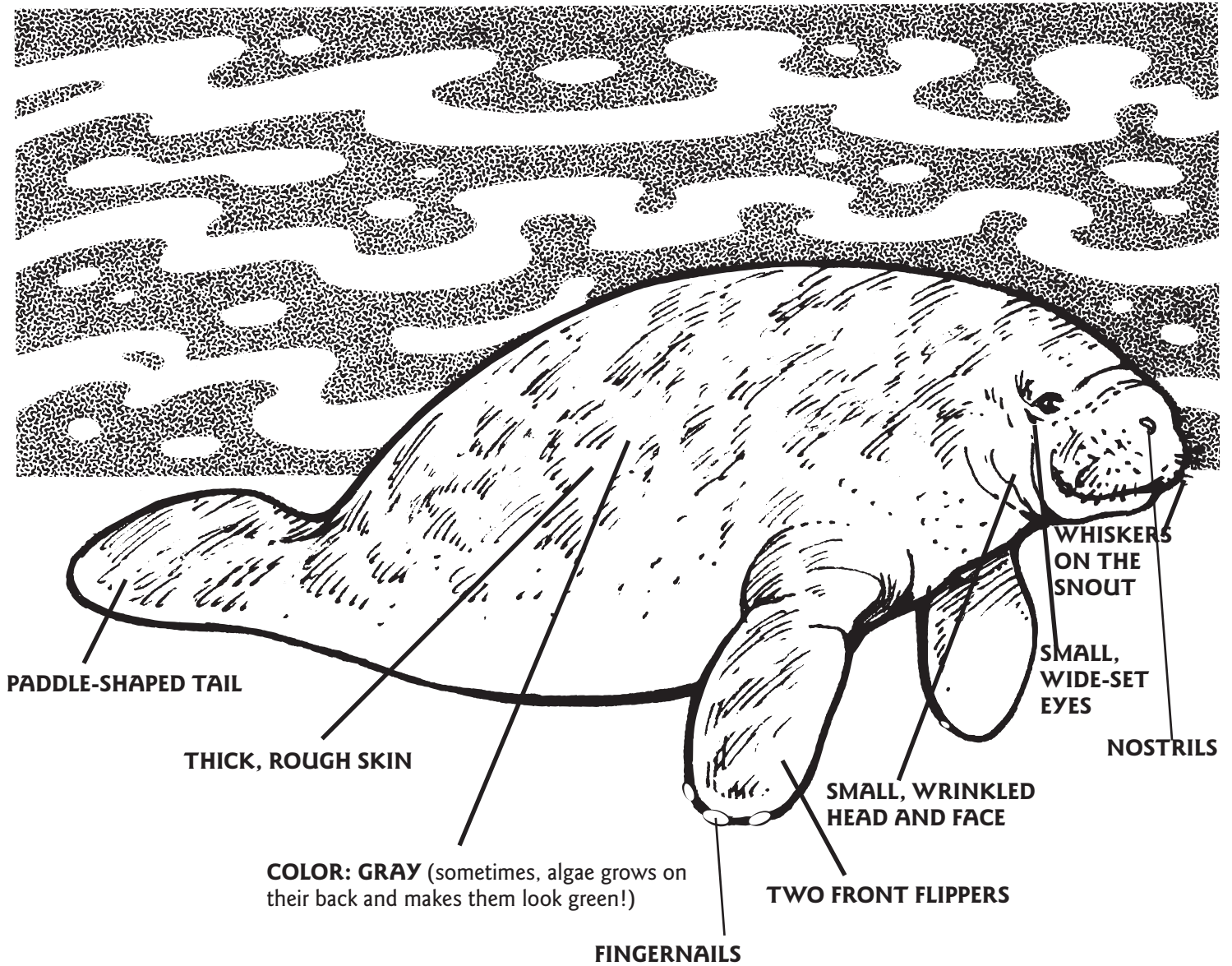
MANATEES



Florida's Gentle Giants

Illustrated by Jerry Bulgrin

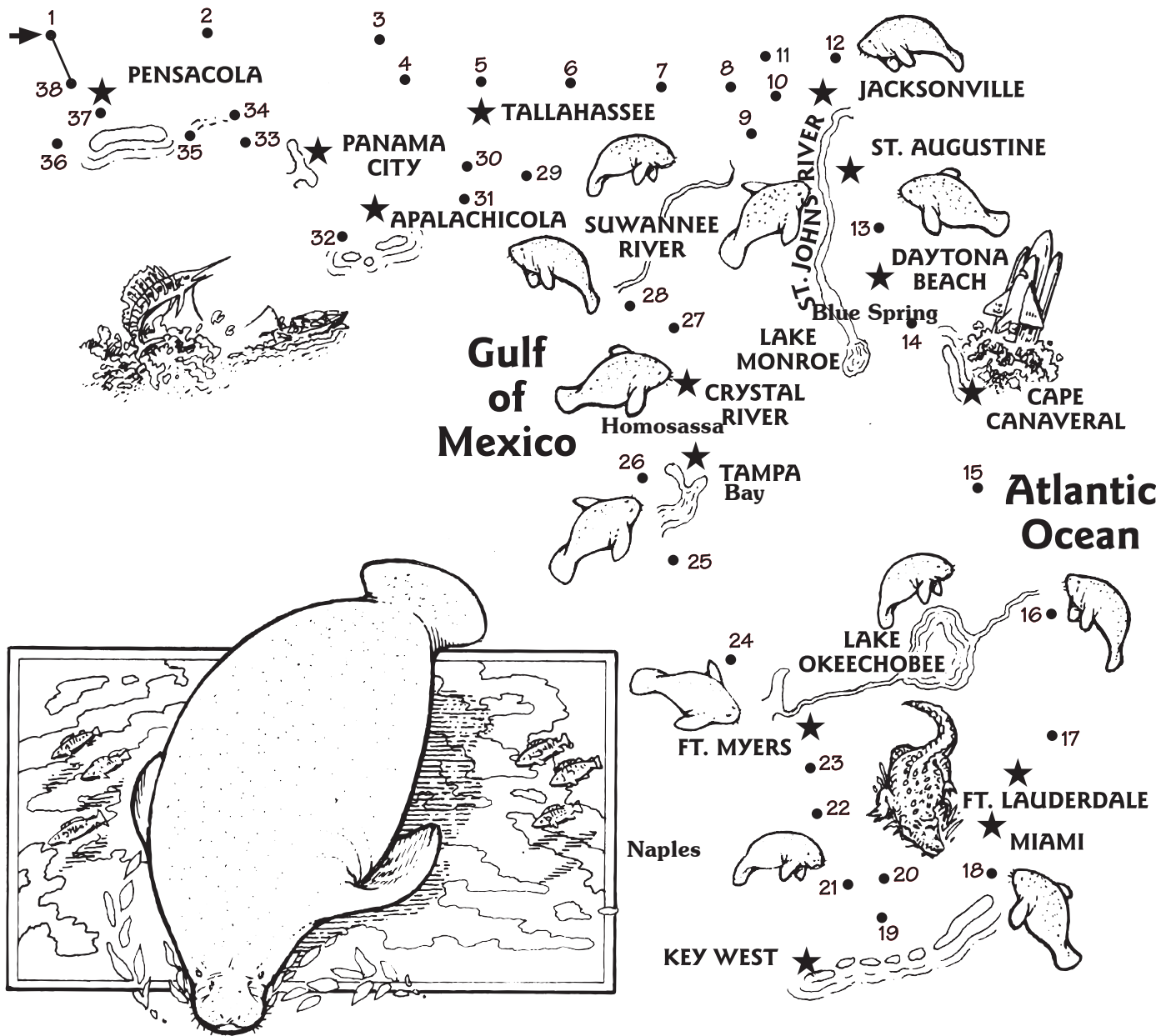
How do manatees look?



The average adult manatee is about 10 feet long and weighs between 800 and 1,200 pounds.

Watch wild manatees online!
Go to www.ManaTV.org

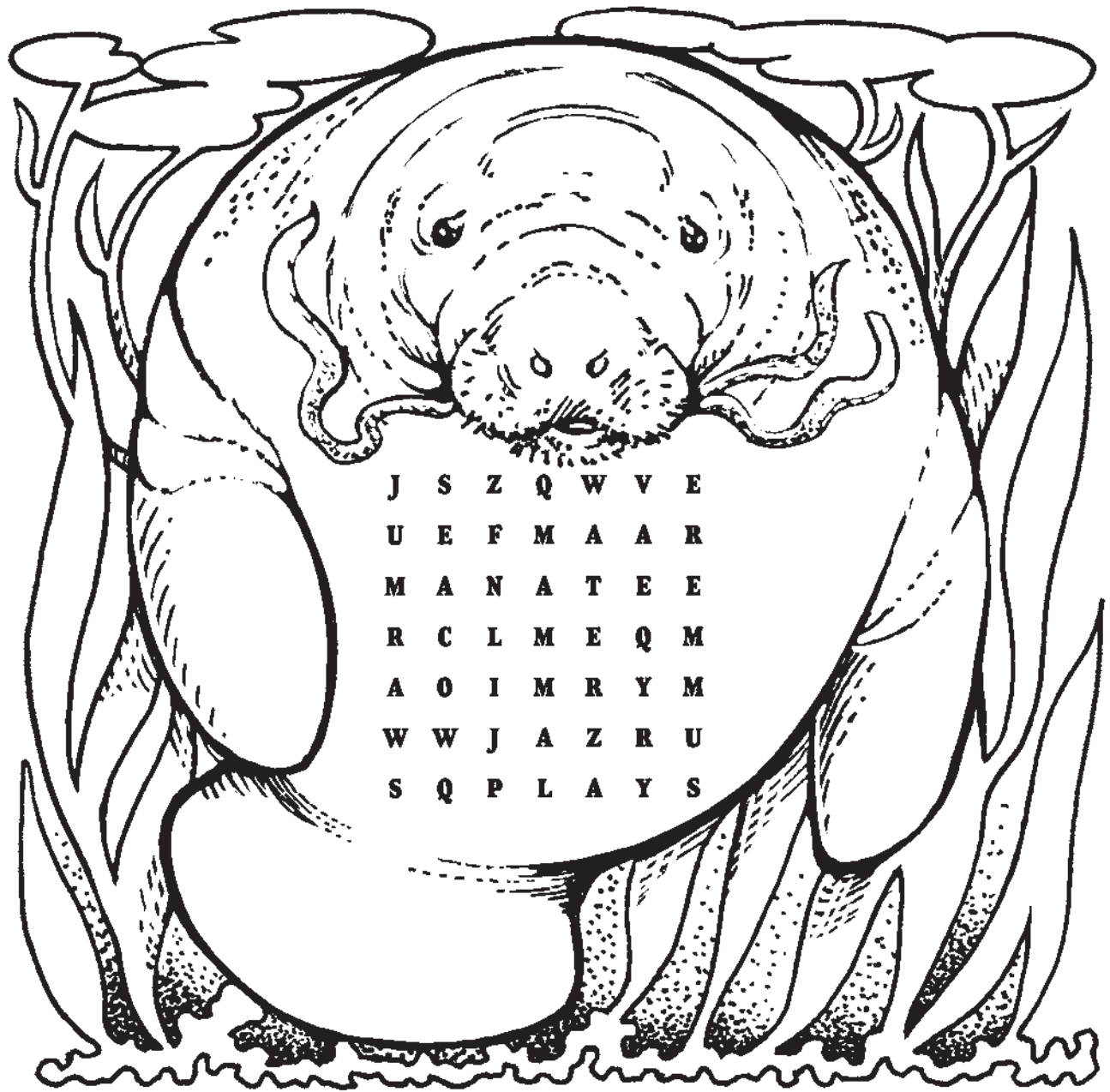
Connect the dots to see where manatees live!



All manatees live in shallow, slow-moving rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, lakes, springs, canals and coastal areas.

They are found:

- In all of Florida's Atlantic and Gulf coastal waters.
- In the St. Johns River from Jacksonville to south of Lake Monroe.
- At times, in the summer, as far west as Texas and as far north as Massachusetts!



J S Z Q W V E
 U E F M A A R
 M A N A T E E
 R C L M E Q M
 A O I M R Y M
 W W J A Z R U
 S Q P L A Y S

Answers on page 8.

Now, find these words hidden in the manatee:

EAT • MAMMAL • MANATEE • PLAY • SEA COW • SUMMER • SWIM • WARM • WATER

(Hint: Look for words running across, up, down or diagonally or even words spelled backward!)

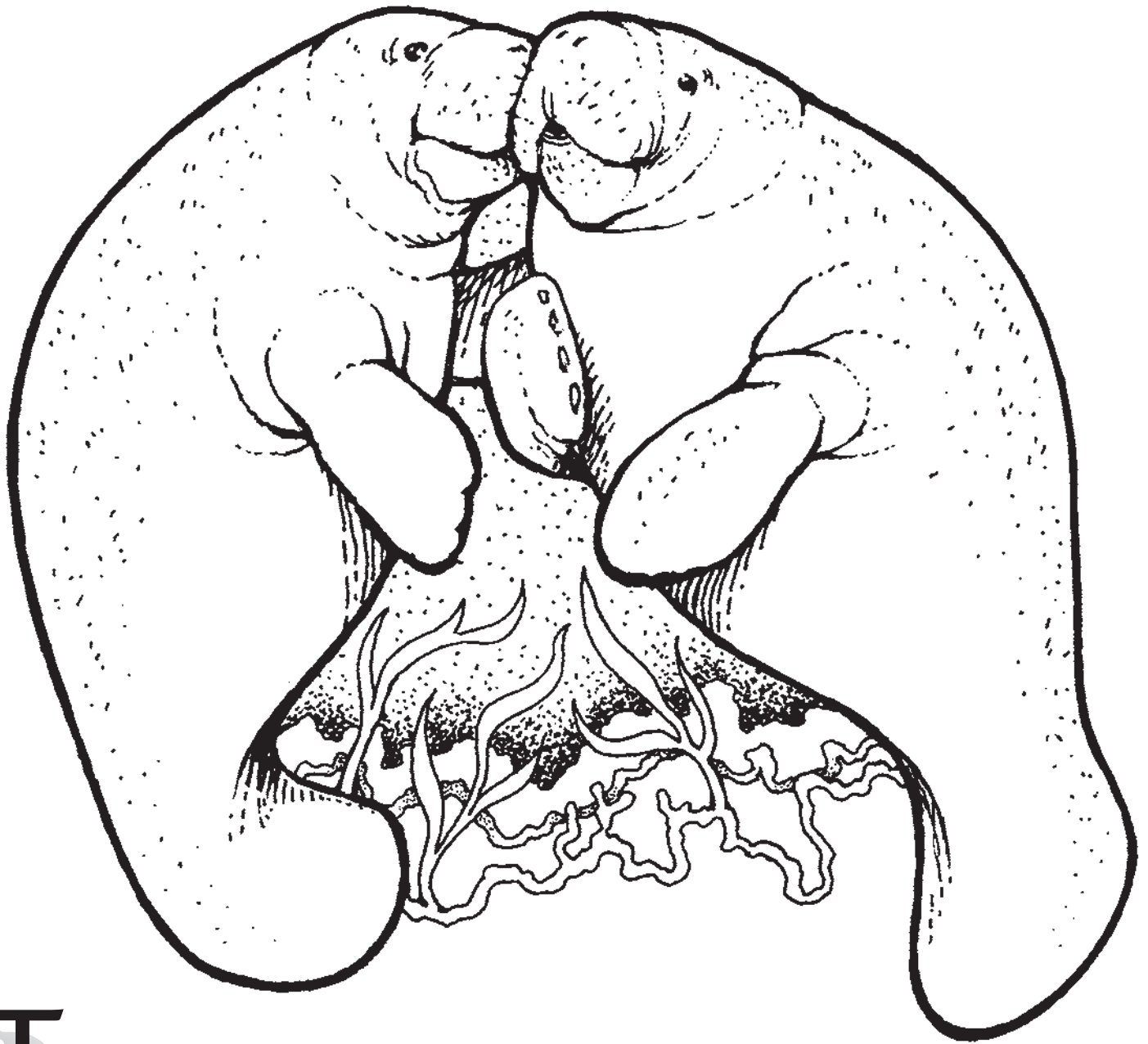
What do manatees eat in one day?

Manatees feed on a large variety of aquatic plants. They can eat 5-10% of their body weight in vegetation daily.

How long do manatees live?

Over 60 years.

FIGURE IT OUT!
How much could a 1,000-pound manatee eat?



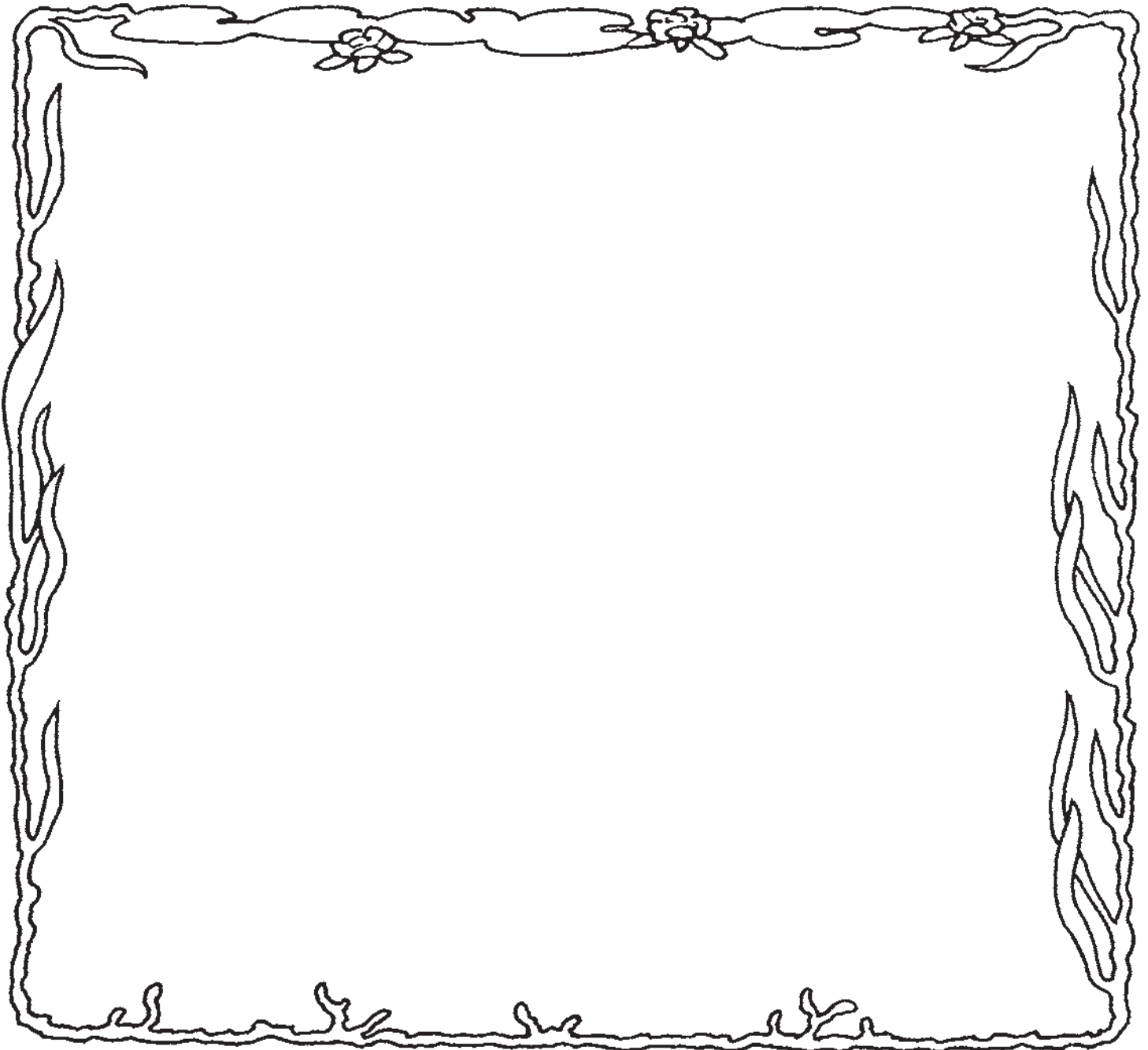
T rivia

- Manatees are mammals like us, so they breathe air.
- Manatees usually come up for air every three to five minutes, but they can hold their breath underwater for as long as 20 minutes while resting!
- A manatee's heart beats at a rate of 50 to 60 times per minute.
- Manatees have “marching molars!” New teeth form at the back of the jaw, wear down as they move forward, and eventually fall out and are replaced.
- “Kissing” may be a form of communication between manatees.
- Manatees do not have eyelashes.
- Manatees are related to the elephant and the hyrax. (What's a hyrax? Do some research and see if you can find out.)
- Female manatees usually only have one calf at a time. Twins occur only about 1% of the time.
- Manatees can swim up to 20 miles per hour in short bursts, but they usually only swim about 3 to 5 miles per hour.
- Manatees make sounds like chirps, whistles or squeaks that are used for communication, particularly between moms and calves.

Manatee Protection Tips

- Look, but don't touch – observe manatees from a distance.
- Enjoy manatees, but please don't feed them or give them water.
- Stash your trash! Recycle, and throw litter in a trash container.
- Watch for manatees when boating: obey speed zone signs, avoid seagrass beds where manatees might be feeding, and wear polarized sunglasses.
- Call 1-888-404-3922, #FWC or *FWC, text or email tips@myfwc.com, or use VHF Channel 16 on a marine radio if you spot an injured manatee.

Draw a picture showing how YOU can help manatees!

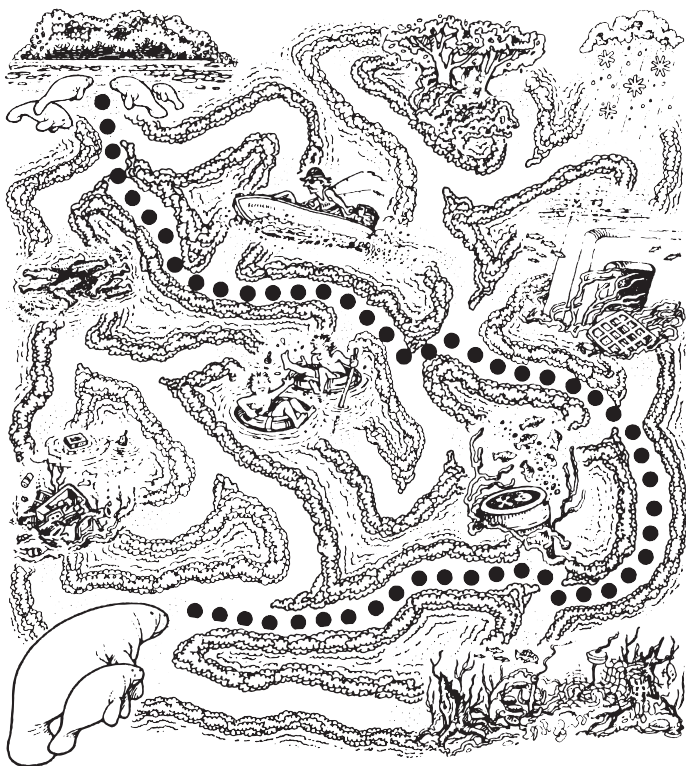
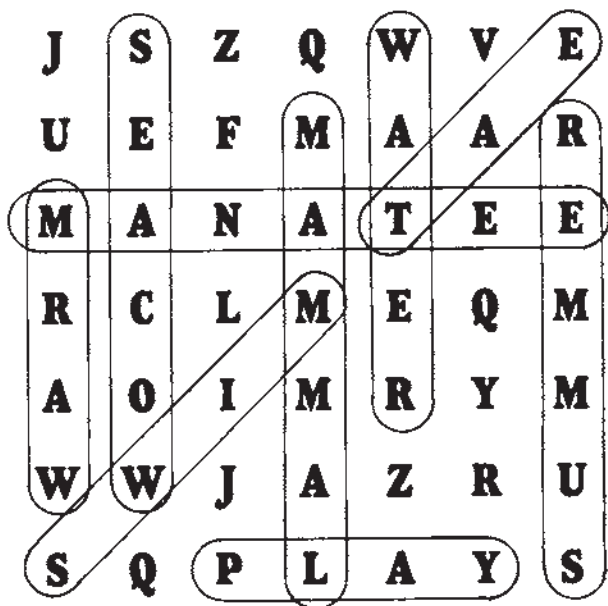


Action Kids!

You can make a difference for manatees. Here are some ways you can help:

1. Learn all about manatees and why they are protected. Visit www.savethemanatee.org and go to the Manatee Info section.
2. Paint a "manatee mural" for a wall at school, or create a manatee scene for a bulletin board. Include the elements that manatees need to survive and ideas about what we can do to help save them.
3. Write a letter or article about manatees for your school or community newspaper.
4. Put together a class presentation or play about manatees. Present it to other classes or community groups.
5. Ask if your class can adopt a manatee.
6. Contact Florida's governor and ask that manatees and their habitat be protected. Be creative! You can draw pictures, write letters, or send poems.
The Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399
7. You can find other suggestions at the Take Action! page of the web site above. Click on the "Action Kids!" link.

Answers



Produced by  Save the Manatee® Club.

For more information or to adopt a manatee, call Save the Manatee Club at 1-800-432-JOIN (5646) or visit our web site at www.savethemanatee.org.