

Meet the Manatees



Reading

Grades: 3-5

Objective: Students will practice their informational reading and note-taking skills while learning the basics about manatees!

What's Inside?

- Teacher's page
- Student reading passage
- Student graphic organizer

Sources: Save the Manatees, Britannica Kids, and CILC Makers Space

Meet the Manatees

As your get ready to start your unit about manatees, check out all of these resources from Save the Manatee at:

<https://www.savethemanatee.org/how-to-help/get-resources/educator-resources>



Vocabulary

mammal

coastal

mermaid

herbivore

pollute

propeller

Meet the Manatees



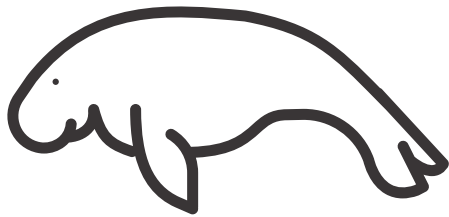
Manatees are slow-moving mammals that are shaped like seals. From a distance they can look like a person who is swimming. For this reason manatees may have inspired people to create stories about mermaids. Mermaids are mythical creatures that are part human and part fish.

Manatees live in rivers and shallow coastal waters. There are three species, or types, of manatee. The Amazonian manatee lives in the Amazon River and in fresh water in South America. The African manatee lives in tropical West Africa. The Caribbean manatee is found in Florida and the West Indies.

Adult manatees may reach a length of 15 feet (4.6 meters) and a weight of 3,650 pounds (1,660 kilograms). They use their flat, rounded tails to move forward. Like all mammals, manatees have lungs. In order to breathe, they must swim to the water's surface for air. Manatees are herbivorous, meaning that they eat plants. They use their flippers to push the food toward their mouths.

Manatees live alone or in small family groups. Females give birth to one calf, or baby, every two to three years.

All three types of manatee are declining in number. In some cases, the water where they live has become polluted. Many manatees have also been hurt or killed by boat propellers. Most areas now have laws protecting manatees.



Source: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/manatee/353416>
Retrieved 07.20.22

Name _____

Taking Notes

Directions: Use this organizer to take notes on the essay.

<p>list of key words</p>	<p>words I need to define</p>
	<p>summary of main points</p>
<p>interesting facts</p>	
<p>questions I have</p>	