



ALL ABOUT MANATEES!

MANATEES LESSON PLAN

Week at a Glance:
Day One: What Are Manatees?
Day Two: Manatee Habitats
Day Three: What Do Manatees Eat?
Day Four: Manatee Babies & Life Cycle
Day Five: Why Are Manatees Important?




MANATEES LESSON PLAN

Day Two: Manatee Habitats
Objective: The students will be able to define "habitat" and describe where manatees live.

LESSON PLAN: DAY TWO

Introduction (5 minutes):
•Teacher Says: What is a habitat? A habitat is the place where an animal lives and finds food. What do you recall from yesterday's lesson about where manatees live? Manatees need warm waters, a large amount of plants to eat, and a safe place to rest. They are found in rivers, springs, bays, lagoons, estuaries and coastal waters - both fresh and salt water habitats. Manatees have very little body fat, so they require warm waters so they don't get sick. In the winter, if their habitat is not warm year round, they will travel to warmer water habitats.



MANATEES VOCABULARY MATCH UP

 herbivore	the food an animal eats
 graze	an animal that only eats plants
 pasture	to eat plants a little at a time over a large area
 diet	an underwater plant that grows in shallow waters

MANATEES MANATEE QUICK CHECK

1. What are baby manatees called?

2. What do calves learn from their mothers?

3. What are the stages of the manatee life cycle?

MANATEES HABITAT UNSCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble each word associated with a manatee habitat.

W M A R	_____
R V I E S R	_____
S P N G R I S	_____
C S O A T I A	_____
L G A O O N S	_____
W T A E R	_____
B Y A S	_____



MANATEES FACT OR FICTION?

Directions: Color the Facts in green. Color statements that are fiction in red.

Manatees only live in oceans.	Manatees only live in oceans.
Manatees only live in oceans.	Manatees only live in oceans.
Manatees only live in oceans.	Manatees only live in oceans.
Manatees only live in oceans.	Manatees only live in oceans.



A COMPREHENSIVE FIVE DAY UNIT ALL ABOUT MANATEES!

Includes lesson plans, graphic organizers, craft ideas, projects, comprehension questions and more!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

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ANIMALS

MANATEES

LESSON PLAN

Week at a Glance:

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Day Five: Why Are Manatees Important?



MANATEES

LESSON PLAN



Day One: What Are Manatees?

Objective: The students will be able to identify characteristics of manatees.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY ONE

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: This week we are learning all about manatees. What are manatees? Manatees are large, gentle animals that live in rivers, springs, bays, and other warm, shallow waters.

Although they live in water, they are not fish - they are mammals. Manatees breathe using their lungs, are warm-blooded, give birth to live babies & feed milk to their young. They are sometimes known as "sea cows" because they are slow-moving, very large and spend most of their day grazing and eating underwater.

MANATEES

Lesson (20 minutes):

*The teacher will play the video, "Manatees Are The "Sea Cows" of The Coast" from National Geographic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIJy/HQMgSI&t=112s>

*After the video, the teacher will guide the students in completing the "Manatees can, have, are" graphic organizer.

*The teacher will also guide the students in writing the definition for "mammal" in the "Vocabulary Square" attached below.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will independently write a sentence and draw a picture of a "mammal" in the "Vocabulary Square" activity sheet.

Closing (5 minutes)

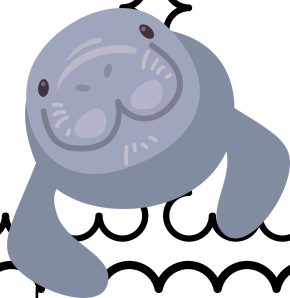
*With a partner, the students will share their sentence and picture from the "Vocabulary Square".

MANATEES

m a n a t e e s

can

are



have

MANATEES

VOCABULARY SQUARE

Word:

mammal

Definition:

Sentence:

Picture:



MANATEES

LESSON PLAN



Day Two: Manatee Habitats

Objective: The students will be able to define "habitat" and describe where manatees live.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY TWO

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: What is a habitat? A habitat is the place where an animal lives and finds food. What do you recall from yesterday's lesson about where manatees live?

Manatees need warm waters, a large amount of plants to eat, and a safe place to rest. They are found in rivers, springs, bays, lagoons, estuaries and coastal waters - both fresh and salt water habitats.

Manatees have very little body fat, so they require warm waters so they don't get sick. In the winter, if their habitat is not warm year round, they will travel to warmer water habitats.

MANATEES

Lesson (15 minutes):

*The teacher will read the book, "The Nature Kid's Guide to Manatees: A Level 2 Reader for Curious Young Kids Who Love Manatees!". Questions to ask during/after reading - Where do manatees live? Why do they need warm water habitats? What do they need in their habitat to survive?

*The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Fact or Fiction" activity sheet attached below. The students will color in the true statements in green and the false statements in red.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will complete the "Habitat Unscramble" attached below. Each word is associated with where manatees live!

Closing (5 minutes)

*The teacher will give each student a sticky note or index card. They will write three things that manatees need in their habitat to survive.

MANATEES

FACT OR FICTION?

Directions: Color the facts in green. Color statements that are fiction in red.

Manatees can breathe under-water.

Manatees need to live in warm water.

Manatees only live in oceans.

Manatees live in the arctic and other cold regions.

Manatees live in both freshwater and saltwater habitats.

Manatees need seagrass in their habitat.

Manatees live in deep ocean waters.

They live in springs & rivers.

MANATEES

HABITAT UNSCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble each word associated with a manatee habitat.

W M A R

R V I E S R

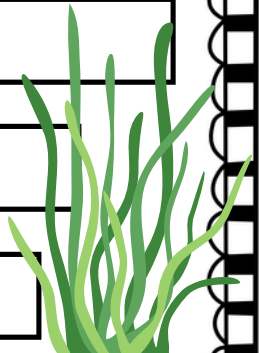
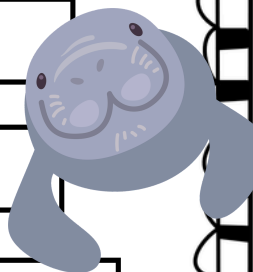
S P N G R I S

C S O A T L A

L G A O O N S

W T A E R

B Y A S

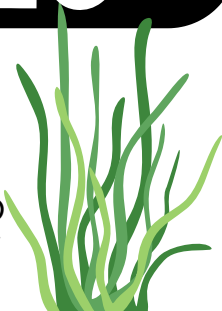


MANATEES

LESSON PLAN

Day Three: Manatee Diet

Objective: The students will be able to identify what manatees eat and how they get their food.



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LESSON PLAN: DAY THREE

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: Make a prediction: From what we've learned so far, do you think manatees are herbivores, omnivores or carnivores? That's right! Manatees are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. Manatees eat water plants like seagrass, water lettuce, hydrilla, algae and other freshwater and saltwater plants. They are extremely large animals, so they require a LOT of food! An adult manatee can eat 100-150 pounds of food and spend the majority of their day eating.

MANATEES

Lesson (15 minutes):

*The students will watch the video, "Why Sea Cows Are Awesome" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gX6yXKplIdA>

Whole Group Discussion: What kind of eater is a manatee? Tell your neighbor three things manatees eat. How much food can manatees eat in one day?

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will independently complete the "Vocabulary Match Up" activity, finding the definition for herbivore, graze, diet and seagrass.

Closing (5 minutes)

*The whole group will review the "Vocabulary Match Up" together.

MANATEES

VOCABULARY MATCH UP



herbivore



graze



seagrass



diet

the food
an animal
eats

an animal
that only eats
plants

to eat plants
a little at a time
over
a large area

an underwater
plant that grows
in shallow waters

MANATEES



LESSON PLAN

Day Four: Manatee Babies & Life Cycle

Objective: The students will be able to describe the lifestyle of manatees as they grow and the different stages of their lives.



LESSON PLAN: DAY FOUR

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: Today, we are going to be discovering more about manatee babies and the different stages of a manatee's life. Manatees are mammals, which means they give birth to live young. A baby manatee is called a calf. Calves are born with lungs and can swim to the surface to breathe. They also drink their mother's milk. Calves stay with their mothers for about a year or two, learning to find food and shelter. Then, they enter in to the "juvenile" stage, which is a young manatee. Fully grown, adult manatees can live up to 50 years or more and weigh more than 1,000 pounds. Female manatees typically have babies every 2 to 5 years.

MANATEES

Lesson (15 minutes):

*The teacher will read the book, "Manatees (National Geographic Kids Readers, Level 2)". Questions to ask during/after reading - Do manatees lay eggs or give birth to live young? What are baby manatees called? How long do they stay with their mothers? What do they learn from their mothers?

*The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Manatee Babies" graphic organizer, recording four facts about the life cycle of manatees.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will complete the "Manatee Quick Check" attached below.

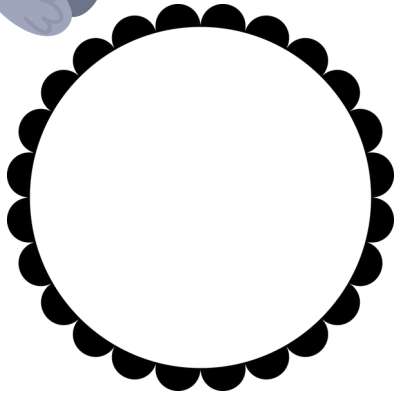
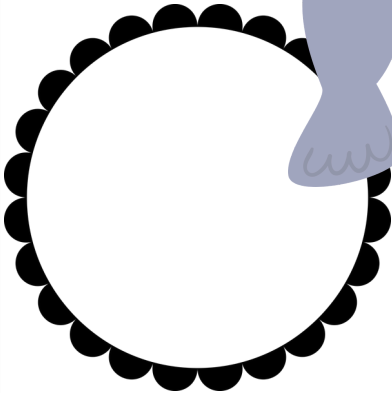
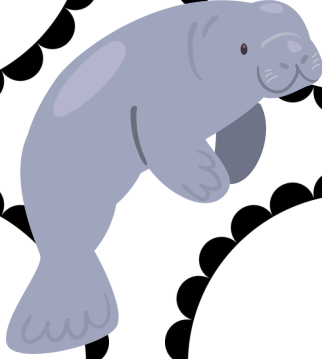
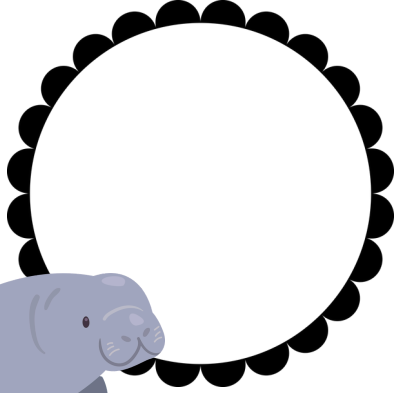
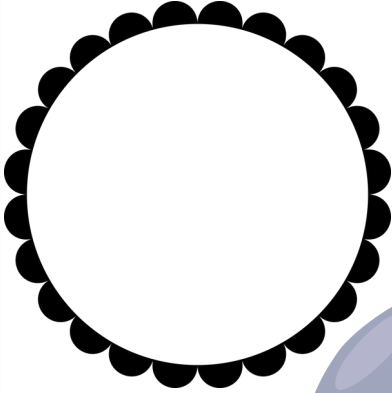
Closing (5 minutes)

*The students will review the quick check together as a class!

MANATEES

MANATEE BABIES

Directions: In the circles below, write down four facts about manatee babies.



MANATEES

MANATEE QUICK CHECK

1. What are baby manatees called?

2. What do calves learn from their mothers?

3. What are the stages of the manatee life cycle?

MANATEES

LESSON PLAN



Day Five: Manatee Importance

Objective: The students will be able to explain why manatees are important for our ecosystem.



LESSON PLAN: DAY FIVE

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: Why do you think manatees are important? Manatees actually play a significant role in keeping rivers, springs, and coastal waters balanced - because they eat so many plants, it keeps them from growing too thick and allows sunlight to reach other plants. Healthy seagrass beds can also provide safe homes and food for other animals like fish, crab and turtles. Manatees also need clean water. Usually if manatees are strong and healthy, it means the habitat that they are in is also clean and healthy.

MANATEES

Lesson (15 minutes):

*The students will watch the video, "All About Manatees for Children" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruSqRvCxi-s>

*Manatees also face many dangers! Their populations can face challenges from boat strikes, pollution and litter, loss of seagrass and clean water, and cold water temperatures. What do you think we can do to help keep manatees safe?

Independent Work (10 minutes)

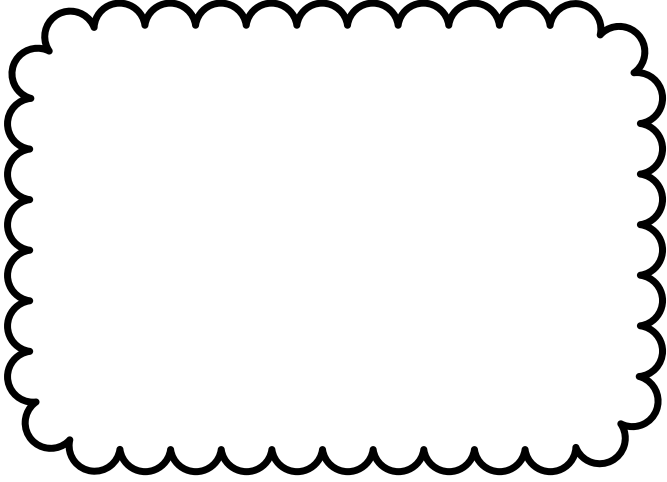
*The students will draw a picture and write a 4-5 sentence paragraph about why manatees are important and how we can keep them safe.

Closing (5 minutes)

*The students will share their writing pieces with the class or in groups!

MANATEES

Keeping Manatees Safe



Four sets of horizontal dashed lines for writing, each set consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.