

September Homeschool Day



Inside:

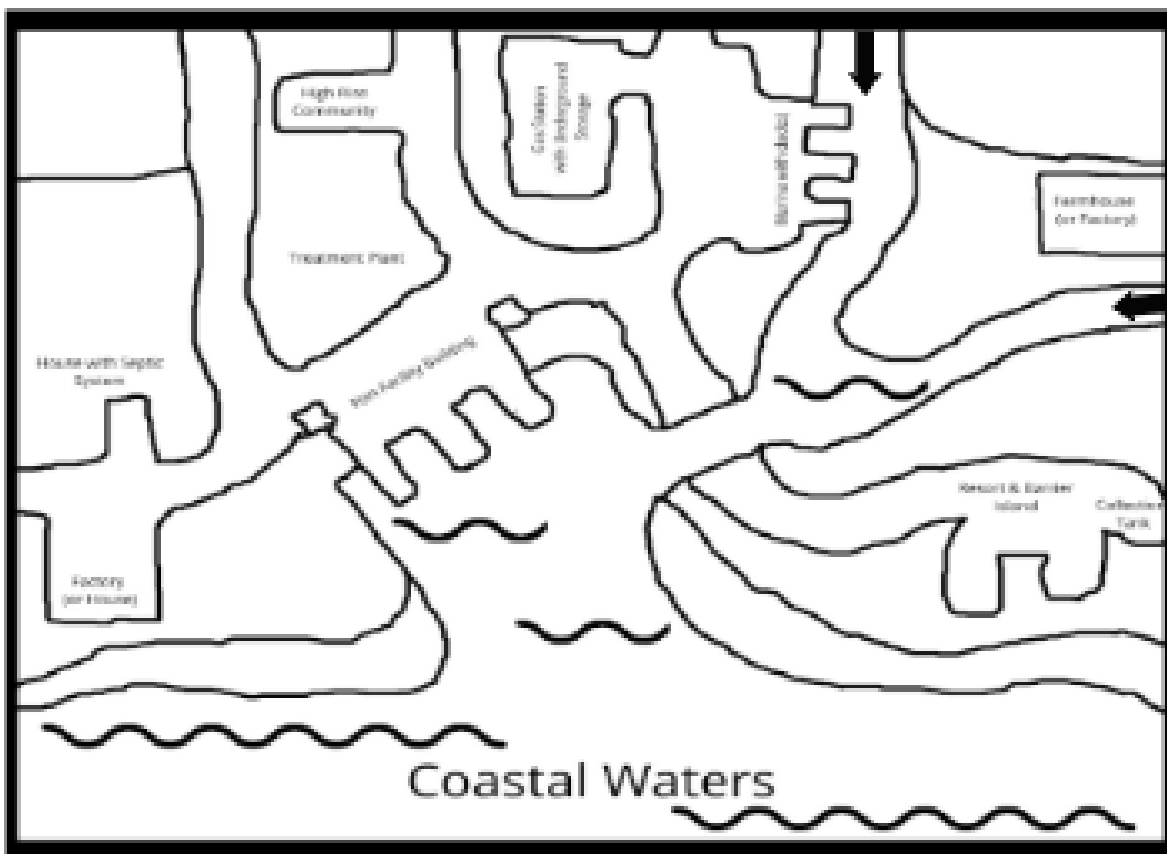
- Move Aside for Manatees!
 - Ambassador Park Activity
- Manatee Mashup and Bookmark
 - Self-Guided Activities
- Manatee Anatomy!
 - Whitney Park Activity
- Animal Observation
 - Any Animal habitat

Our Animal ambassador, Romeo, is going to help you learn all about manatees and the threats they face out in the ocean!

Move Aside for Manatees!

Manatees play an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Manatees eat lots of seagrass! By doing so, they keep the grass short, which helps maintain the health of the seagrass beds. Currently, there are two main threats to manatees: habitat loss and boat collisions.

Use the diagram below to plan your manatee's route through the ecosystem! Start at one of the arrows and make your way toward the coastal waters! You will also need to add 3 seagrass beds and 2 boats to the waterways!



Was your manatee able to make it through to the coastal waters? If not, plan another route and try again!

- Yes
- No

Did your manatee stop to eat seagrass along the way? Did your manatee collide with a boat along the way?

Manatee Mashup!

The scrambled words below are all related to manatees! Use your manatee knowledge to try to unscramble them! *To color a manatee bookmark, head to the gift shop where you will find a table with coloring supplies!*

1. Manatees keep ecosystems healthy by maintaining the _____.

a. easrasgs dbse

2. Manatees _____ to warmer waters in the winter because they can't survive long periods of time in water below 68°F.

a. girtmae

3. All three species of manatee are listed as _____ on the IUCN Red List.

a. unerbvlael

4. Manatees have a round _____-_____ fluke that helps propel them through the water.

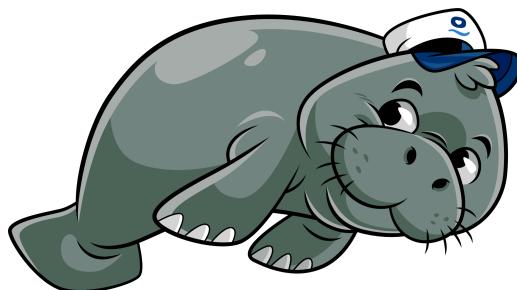
a. lpdead-ielk

5. The closest living relatives to manatees are _____!

a. lpheentas

6. The two main threats to manatees are _____ and _____.

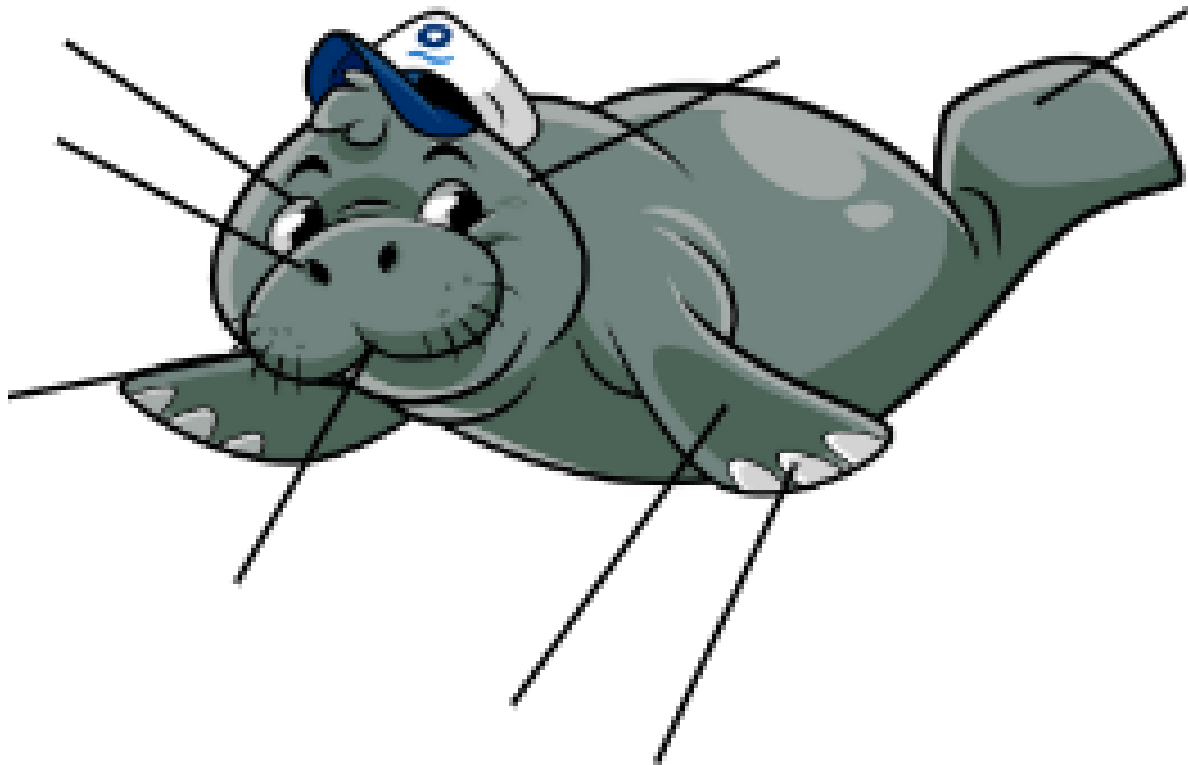
a. Bihaatt sols; oatb tkires



Manatee Anatomy!

Manatees are very large aquatic animals! Full-grown adults are typically 9-10 feet long and can weigh around 1,000 pounds! However, some manatees can reach upwards of 13 feet and weigh over 3,500 pounds!

Using the diagram below, fill in the anatomy parts of our manatee!



Which part of the body allows manatees to process tactile information?

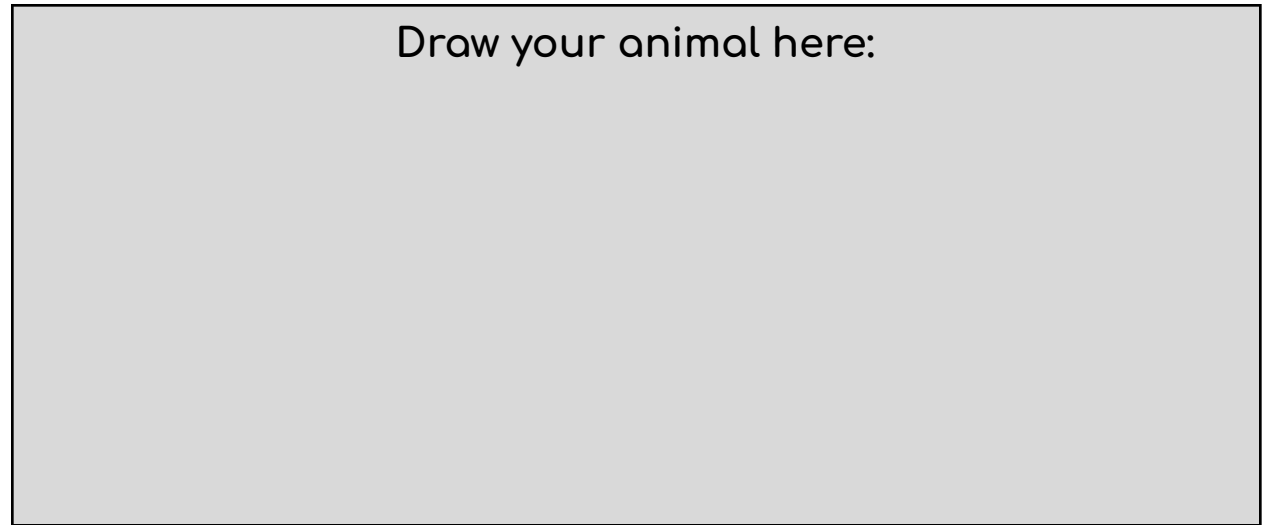
Which parts of the body help manatees move through the water?

Animal Observations

Choose one animal at Marineland on which to do a physical and behavioral observation. You may pick any animal you'd like, but you must stick with that individual, so be sure you've identified a distinguishing characteristic about it that will help you keep it in view, even if it lives with a group of other animals that look just like it.

Animal: _____

Draw your animal here:



List 5 physical characteristics/adaptations (body shape, coloration, number of limbs, etc):

What do these adaptations help the animal do? (Avoid predators, catch prey, camouflage, etc)



Observe your animal's behavior for three minutes. Fill out the following behavioral observation chart. Put a tally mark next to the behavior every time you see it. If you see any behaviors other than the ones listed, please add them in the blank space provided:

Animal: _____

Behaviors Seen	Minute 1	Minute 2	Minute 3	Total Tallies
Eating				
Chasing				
Hiding				
Playing				
Breathing				
Sleeping				

What behavior did you see your animal do the most?

What kind of conclusions can you make from your observations? (Keep in mind that your three-minute observation does not represent a full day of the animal's life.)