



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Rescue and Rehabilitation

K-3 Classroom Activities

Home is Where the Grass Is

OBJECTIVE

Students will learn the coloration and habitat of manatees and how manatees are camouflaged to blend into their environment.

ACTION

1. Hand out copies of the white construction paper manatees and have the students cut them out. You may need to cut out the manatee for younger students.
2. Spread out newspaper to cover areas where students are working and give each student two paintbrushes, paintwash, and a paper manatee.
3. Using a paintbrush, have the students stir the paintwash and apply it to the manatee, covering it entirely.
4. After the manatee is completely painted, set aside and let dry for at least one hour. Collect the paint cups and used brushes from the students. Pass out a 12"x 18" sheet of white paper and cups of gluewash to each student.
5. After it has dried, have the students glue the manatee on the paper, paint side up. Give each student strips of blue and green tissue paper. One at a time, have the students dip the strips of paper in the gluewash and lay them vertically and diagonally on the white construction paper. Make sure students leave space in between the strips of tissue paper (some may overlap depending on the direction they're applied). Students may also lay the dry strips on the paper and gluewash over them.
6. After all strips are applied, have the students use the paintbrush to dip into the gluewash and paint over the entire page. This will make the colors of the tissue paper blend in and give the appearance of water. Let the entire picture dry for at least one hour. When it's dry, they'll be able to see how well manatees are camouflaged to live in their homes.
7. Display the projects after they're completed. Use them as a counting exercise and count the "plants" (green strips) on different pages. Discuss differences. Have the students tell stories about the position of the manatees on the pages. Is the manatee swimming to the top of the water to breathe? Is it looking for its mother? Where would it go to get away from a boat? Encourage creativity!

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Manatees are mammals that live in warm, fresh water and seawater. The West Indian manatee found in Florida waters can weigh up to 545 kg (1,200 lb.) and reach 3.1 m (10 ft.). They usually swim slowly or float at the surface. To feed, they make shallow dives [not more than 10 m (33 ft.)] to grab aquatic plants including manatee grass, turtle grass, water hydrilla, mangrove leaves, and water hyacinth. All manatees are herbivores (plant eaters). An adult manatee may eat four to nine percent of its body weight, between 22 to 50 kg (48-108 lb.) each day

MATERIALS

For each student group:

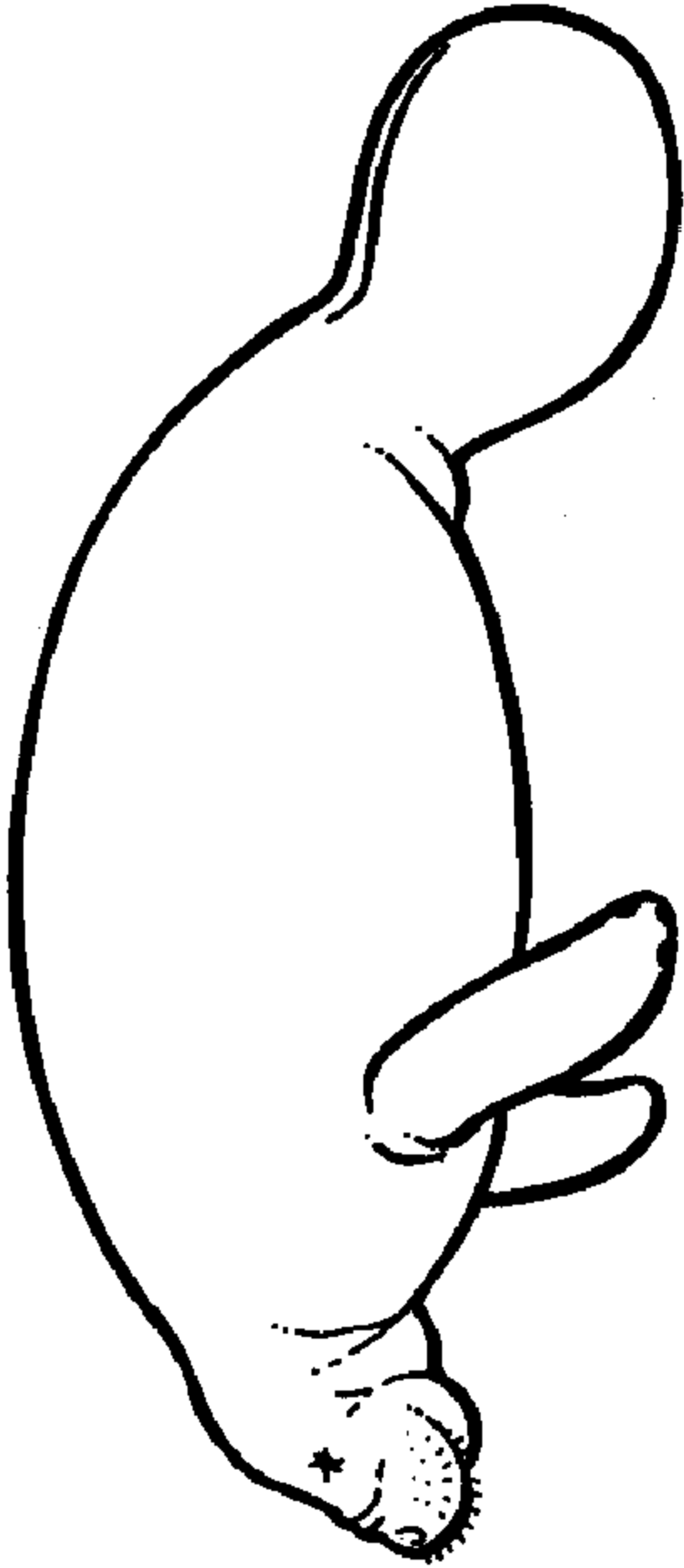
- wide-mouth pint jar
- white construction paper manatees (see pattern on page 3) enlarged 200%
- 12" x 18" sheets of white construction paper
- cups of black paintwash (two tsp. of black paint per five oz. of water)
- ten strips of blue tissue paper per student
- ten strips of green tissue paper per student
- cups of gluewash (one tsp. of glue per five oz. of water)
- paintbrushes
- newspaper



In winter, manatees live in warm-water rivers off coastal Florida. Some need to be rescued when they get tangled in nets or hit by boat propellers.

From *Manatees K-3 Teacher's Guide*, a SeaWorld Publication.

name _____





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Dolphins on Alert

OBJECTIVE

Students will become aware of hazards (both natural and imposed by people) to dolphins in their environment.

ACTION

1. Distribute materials to students. Explain that the pictures show things that can harm bottlenose dolphins.
2. Ask students to cut apart their cards and sort them into two piles: one for “Natural Hazards” and “Human Hazards.”
3. When students are finished cutting and sorting, lead a discussion to help them determine if they’ve sorted their cards correctly. To do this, write “Natural Hazards” and “Human Hazards” in large letters on the chalkboard. Hold up one of your cards and ask a volunteer to place it under the correct heading. Explain why the card is a hazard for a bottlenose dolphin. Ask students to sort their cards to match the board.
4. After the discussion, students can glue their cards under the correct headings. Students should also glue the two headings on their construction paper. Students may color the cards if they wish.

ANSWERS

Natural Hazards: Killer whales hunt bottlenose dolphins; some sharks catch dolphins; some dolphins, especially false killer whales, can become stranded on beaches and die.

Human Hazards: dolphins can become sick from eating trash; ocean water becomes polluted by leaking oil, factory chemicals and waste water; dolphins can get caught in fishing nets or entangled in fishing line and drown or starve; dolphins can be disturbed by heavy boat traffic.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dolphins face many challenges living in the ocean. Besides finding food and shelter, dolphins also must avoid danger. Natural predators and human hazards are two dangers dolphins may face every day.

Sharks are a dolphin's main predator. Dolphin remains are often found in the stomachs of tiger sharks, dusky sharks, and bull sharks. On occasion, killer whales may feed on some species of dolphins.

In some parts of the world, humans hunt certain types of dolphins for food. Yet even when they're not hunted, dolphins are threatened by some human activities.

Toxic chemical that pollute nearshore waters may contaminate the fish that dolphins eat. Scientists believe these chemicals might affect the health of dolphins and cause tumors. Pollution may have contributed to the deaths of dolphins that have washed up on beaches in recent years.

In the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, tuna travel under dolphin pods. When tuna fishermen set their nets around the dolphins to catch tuna, the dolphins are trapped too. To help save dolphins, many tuna fishermen now use special nets and techniques to release the dolphins.

A more deadly type of fishing is done with gill nets. These nets stretch for miles across the ocean and extend deep under water. Once the fishermen have set the net, they leave the net, and return a few hours or days later to haul in the nets. They remove the fish they want, and throw away all the other animals. Thousands of dolphins and other marine creatures drown or die in these huge nets each year.

MATERIALS

For each student:

- a copy of *Dolphins On Alert* funsheet on page 6
- scissors
- crayons or markers
- glue or paste
- construction paper

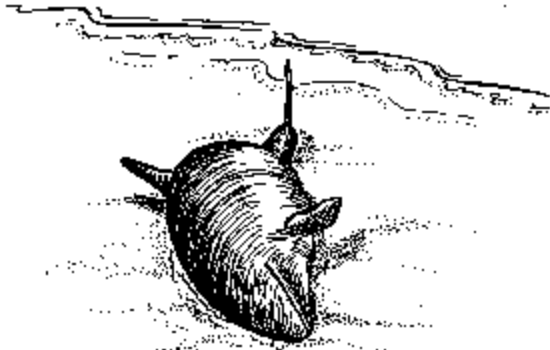
Per class:

- a copy of *Dolphins On Alert* funsheet on page 6, cut out and sorted into categories
- masking tape

From *Dolphins K-3 Teacher's Guide*,
a SeaWorld Publication.



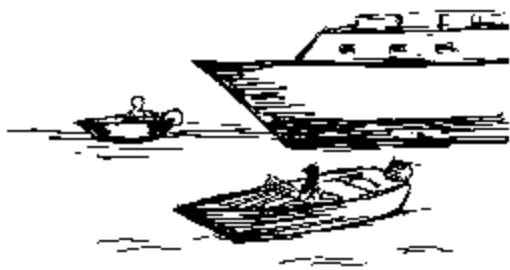
Bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) live around the world in temperate seas. To survive they must find food (fish) and avoid predators like sharks and killer whales.



whale on beach



trash



speeding boats



factory smoke



spilled oil



killer whale



shark



fishing nets