

## Manatee Myths

### OBJECTIVE

Students will find and correct false statements while reading a story about manatees.

### MATERIALS

- copies of activity sheet on page 29
- pens or pencils

### ACTION

1. Copy the activity sheet on page 29 for your students. Have them read the text and underline each mistake they find. Use the lines below the text to fill in the correct information.

### DEEPER DEPTHS

Have students do research on manatees or another endangered species and write a short paragraph that contains errors like the one below. Collect the paragraphs and distribute to the class. Let the students try to find the errors in each other's paragraphs.

### Answer Key to Manatee Myths

The incorrect statements are underlined with the correct answer given in parentheses.

Manatees are fascinating animals. They live both on land (in seawater) and in fresh water. They also only weigh in at 55 kg (120 lb.) at maturity (they can weigh up to 3,500 lb.). The West Indian manatee is one of five (four) species of living animals in the Order Sirenia. Unfortunately, the Amazonian manatee (Steller's sea cow) is now extinct. Manatees are carnivores (herbivores), eating meat and fish (only plants). They like eating rodents and insects (They eat a wide variety of aquatic plants). They can consume up to 45 kg (100 lb.) of food a day.

There are over 3,000 (less than 1,900) Florida manatees left on Earth. Humans

have contributed to their decline by littering, driving their boats too fast and accidentally hitting them, taking them for pets (poaching), and cutting down trees and removing plants in their habitat. The Florida state government has enacted the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to help save the manatee (The U.S. government has enacted the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973; the Florida state government has enacted the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978). You can also help by observing boat speed limits, cutting down trees along waterways (supporting efforts to preserve manatee habitats), discarding fishing line properly, and by diving with and touching manatees (observing manatees from a distance).

## Manatee Myths

Underline the incorrect facts in this text.  
Write the correct answers on the lines at the bottom of the page.

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There are over 3,000 Florida manatees left on Earth. Humans have contributed to their decline by littering, driving their boats too fast and accidentally hitting them, taking them for pets, and cutting down trees and removing plants in their habitat. The Florida state government has enacted the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to help save the manatee. You can also help by observing boat speed limits, cutting down trees along waterways, discarding fishing line properly, and by diving with and touching manatees.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

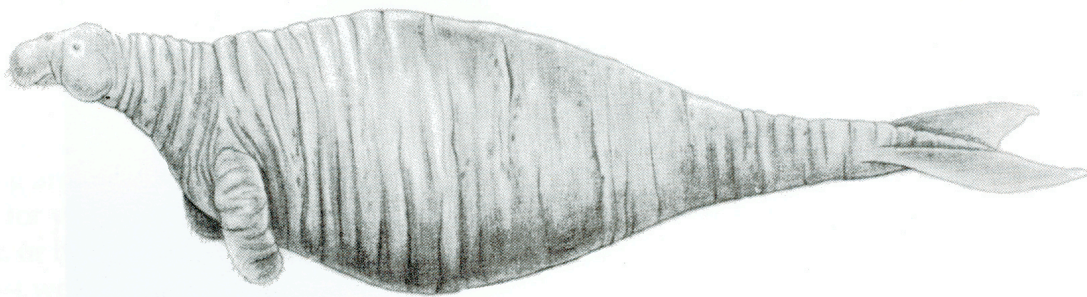
10. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_



The Steller's sea cow was adapted for the cold waters of the Bering Sea and Commander Islands.