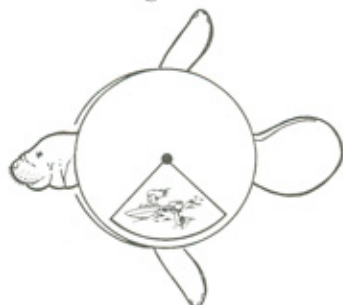


Sirenian Survival



Objectives

Students will name four reasons why manatees are endangered.



Materials

- small paper plates (2 per student)
- glue
- scissors
- paper fasteners
- construction paper copies of tail, flippers, and head
- triangle pattern
- copies of the habitat hazards wheel
- crayons

Action

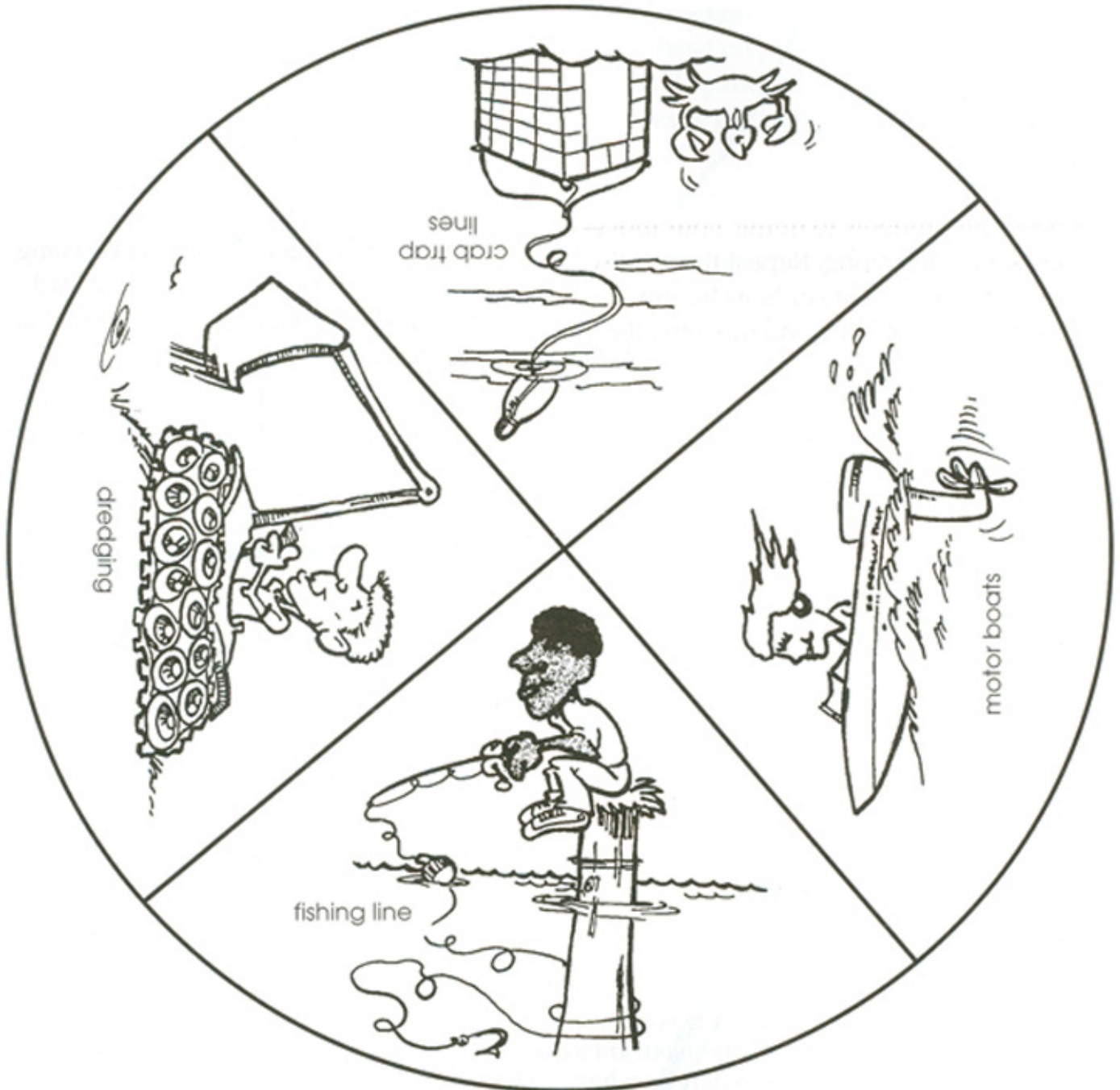
1. Hand out a copy of the habitat hazards wheel and a paper plate to each student. Lead them in a discussion about each of the pictures. The pictures show hazards manatees face in their environment.

They include:

- crab trap lines which have been found wrapped around manatees' flippers, tails, and even their entire bodies, cutting off circulation.
- motor boats with propellers that accidentally cause serious injuries either from impacting with the manatee or actually cutting them with the sharp propeller blades.
- fishing line which manatees sometimes eat accidentally or become entangled in.
- dredging, a method of widening and deepening canals and rivers for boat traffic, this eliminates manatees' food supply by scooping up aquatic plants growing on the surface and at the bottom.

2. Have the students color the pictures on the habitat hazards wheel and then glue it to one of their paper plates. Set this paper plate aside.
3. Give each student another paper plate and a copy of the manatee's tail, flippers, head, and triangle pattern to cut out.
4. Instruct the students to place the triangle pattern on the edge of the second paper plate and trace it. After they trace the pattern, have them cut it out. Place the cut-out plate on top of the wheel-of-trouble plate and put a fastener in the middle of both plates.
5. Have the students turn the two paper plates over. Instruct them to glue the manatee's head, flippers, and tail on this side. Turn it back over and color eyes, nostrils, and whiskers on the manatee's face.
6. Let the students turn the habitat hazards plate and look at the pictures through the "window." Review each of the hazards manatees face in their environment. Let the students come up with other threats to the manatee's survival. Have the students name some things they can do to help make the manatees' environment safer.

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