

# Third Grade Manatee Curriculum—Lesson 1: Starting to Learn about Manatees<sup>1</sup>

Heather Maness, Ruth Francis-Floyd, and Maia McGuire<sup>2</sup>

## Description

Students will raise questions about manatees and discuss what they already know. Students will start to learn about manatee biology.

## Objective

By the end of the activity, students will be able to list at least three characteristics of manatees.

## Standards Addressed

*Common Core*—CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4a; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.10

## You Will Need

- Posterboard or electronic way to prepare a KWL chart that can be referenced later in the school year. (KWL = know, want, learn [i.e., what I *know*, what I *want* to know, and what I *learned*])
- Single copy or class set of *Sam the Sea Cow* (ISBN-10: 0802773737; ISBN-13: 978-0802773739)
- A copy of *Sam the Sea Cow* worksheet for each student

## Strategy

1. Create a KWL chart. Have students suggest items to fill in under K and W (L will be completed later in Lesson 14). Post this chart in the classroom to refer to during future manatee lessons.
2. Either have students read *Sam the Sea Cow* individually, or read it to the class as a group.
3. Have students complete the *Sam the Sea Cow* worksheet.

1. This document is VM204, one of a series of the Veterinary Medicine—Large Animal Clinical Sciences Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date July 2015. For more lessons in the *Third Grade Manatee Curriculum* series, go to [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_series\\_third\\_grade\\_manatee\\_workbook](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_third_grade_manatee_workbook). Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. Heather Maness, instructional designer, University of Florida Center for Instructional Technology and Training; Ruth Francis-Floyd, professor and UF/IFAS Extension veterinarian, College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Forest Resources and Conservation; and Maia McGuire, Florida Sea Grant agent, UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns and Flagler Counties, Bunnell, FL; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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## **Sam the Sea Cow Worksheet**

1. Sam is a sea cow. Another word for sea cow is *M* \_ \_ \_ \_ .
  
2. Even though Sam lives in the water what does he need to breathe? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hint: What do you need to breathe?)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do we call a baby manatee? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. When Sam was a tiny baby, what did his mother feed him? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Sam's tail is called his *P* \_ *D D* \_ \_ .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Sam's arms are called *F L* \_ *P P* \_ \_ *S*.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Sam lived at the Seaquarium for a year. He was then let go in a river. Many manatees go to this river in the winter. What is the name of the river? \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Sam the Sea Cow (Answer Key)***

1. Sam is a sea cow. Another word for sea cow is ***MANATEE***.
2. Even though Sam lives in the water what does he need to breathe? ***AIR*** (Hint: What do you need to breathe?)
3. What do we call a baby manatee? ***CALF***
4. When Sam was a baby, what did his mother feed him?  
***MILK***
5. Sam's tail is called his ***PADDLE***.
6. Sam's arms are called ***FLIPPERS***.
7. Sam lived at the Seaquarium for a year. He was then let go in a river. Many manatees go to this river in the winter. What is the name of the river? ***CRYSTAL RIVER***