

# Third Grade Manatee Curriculum—Lesson 2: *Reading Rainbow*, “Sam the Sea Cow”<sup>1</sup>

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## Description

Students learn about threats to manatees.

## Objective

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

## Standards Addressed

*Common Core*—CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.6

## You Will Need

- A copy of the *Reading Rainbow* DVD, “Sam the Sea Cow” episode
- A copy of the student worksheet (pages 2–3) for each student
- *Optional*: A copy of *Sam the Sea Cow* teacher’s guide (available at [https://static.pbslearningmedia.org/media\\_files/854982a9-1b6c-461a-96f0-4b324449170b/14c7cfb3-e578-4347-bf61-db0a0f3881b9.pdf](https://static.pbslearningmedia.org/media_files/854982a9-1b6c-461a-96f0-4b324449170b/14c7cfb3-e578-4347-bf61-db0a0f3881b9.pdf))

## Strategy

1. As a class, watch the *Reading Rainbow* DVD, “Sam the Sea Cow” (30 minutes).
2. Have students complete the student worksheet while watching the DVD.
3. Have a class discussion about the answers (also refer to the *Sam the Sea Cow* teacher’s guide for discussion ideas).
4. *Optional*: Have students write a story from the viewpoint of a manatee biologist. Students should use information from the video and describe a manatee rescue, rehabilitation, or release.

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## ***Reading Rainbow—“Sam the Sea Cow”***

### **Worksheet**

As you watch the movie, look and listen for the answers to the following questions.

1. Who reads the story *Sam the Sea Cow*?
  - a. Francine Jacobs
  - b. Laura Kelly
  - c. LeVar Burton
  - d. Jason Robards
  
2. Where does baby Sam get his milk? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
3. What part of the body do manatees use to steer themselves through the water?  
\_\_\_\_ \_
  
  
4. How old is Sam when he leaves his mother? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
5. When people rescue hurt manatees, what do they often use  
to take the manatee out of the water? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
6. How much do adult male manatees weigh?
  - a. 500 pounds
  - b. 1000–1200 pounds
  - c. 2500 pounds
  - d. 5000 pounds
  
7. Are female manatees bigger or smaller than male manatees? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What animal is the manatee's closest relative on land? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Which word best describes manatees?
- a. Vegetarian
  - b. Carnivore
  - c. Omnivore
  - d. Predator
10. What body part do manatees use to grab their food? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Why do some manatees have scars on their backs? \_\_\_\_\_
12. How much did Barnacle Bill grow in the 18 months between the time  
he was rescued and the time he was released into the wild? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How many people does it take to carry Bill to freedom? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What is the largest animal on earth? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How long have manatees been around? \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER KEY

As you watch the movie, look and listen for the answers to the following questions.

1. Who reads the story *Sam the Sea Cow*?
  - a. Francine Jacobs
  - b. Laura Kelly
  - c. **LeVar Burton**
  - d. Jason Robards
2. Where does baby Sam get his milk? ***from under his mother's flipper***
3. What part of the body do manatees use to steer themselves through the water? **FLIPPERS**
4. How old is Sam when he leaves his mother? **2 years old**
5. When people rescue hurt manatees, what do they often use to take the manatee out of the water? ***fishing nets***
6. How much do male manatees weigh?
  - a. 500 pounds
  - b. **1000–1200 pounds**
  - c. 2500 pounds
  - d. 5000 pounds
7. Are female manatees bigger or smaller than male manatees? ***bigger***
8. What animal is the manatee's closest relative on land? ***elephants***
9. Which word best describes manatees?
  - a. **Vegetarian**
  - b. Carnivore
  - c. Omnivore
  - d. Predator
10. What body part do manatees use to grab their food? ***their lips***
11. Why do some manatees have scars on their backs? ***because they have been hit by boats (cut by the propeller)***
12. How much did Barnacle Bill grow in the 18 months between the time he was rescued and the time he was released into the wild? ***one foot***
13. How many people does it take to carry Bill to freedom? **8**
14. What is the largest animal on earth? ***blue whale***
15. How long have manatees been around? ***millions of years***