Third Grade Manatee Curriculum—Lesson 8: How Much Do Manatees Need to Eat?[1]

Maia McGuire and Ruth Francis-Floyd[2]

For more lessons in the *Third Grade Manatee Curriculum* series, go to http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_third_grade_manatee_workbook.

Description
Students will use math skills to calculate manatee feeding needs.

Objective
By the end of the activity, students will be able to use division to distribute food evenly to each manatee.

Standards Addressed
Florida—MA.K12.MTR.7.1

Common Core—CCSS.-Math.Content.3.OA.A.2

You Will Need
- Scissors for each student
- A copy of the "Manatee Feeding Time" activity and worksheet for each student (available online at http://da15bdaf715461308003-0c725c907c2d637068751776ae-ee5fbf.r7.cf1.rackcdn.com/bf9833e0436140298c3a32e8f9cb3f8d_k-4-manatee-feeding-time.pdf).
- Tape or glue

Strategy
1. Remind students that manatees have to eat a lot of food every day. Generally, manatees will eat one tenth (1/10) of their body weight in plants every day. So, a manatee that weighs 1,000 pounds will have to eat 100 pounds of food each day.

2. Have students complete "Manatee Feeding Time" activity.* Explain to students that they are going to pretend to be manatee keepers at Sea World. It will be their job to make sure that each manatee gets its share of food. They will feed the manatees romaine lettuce, cabbage, grapes, and carrots. Have the students do the following:

   - Cut out all of the boxes on the sheet (manatees and food items).
   - Count how many of each item they have and enter those numbers on their worksheet.
   - Give an equal amount of each food item to each manatee.
   - Create equations/number sentences to show how they distributed the food among the manatees, and write these on the worksheet.

"Manatee Feeding Time" Activity Worksheet

Name: _____

Before you start distributing the food to the manatees, you should take "inventory." This means you need to count how much of each type of food you have and how many manatees you need to feed.

1. How many romaine lettuce pieces did you start with? _____

2. How many cabbage pieces did you start with? _____

3. How many grapes did you start with? _____

4. How many carrots did you start with? _____

5. How many manatees do you have to feed? _____

Once you have "fed" the manatees, write a number sentence for each food type to show how the food was distributed. For example, if you had had 20 water hyacinths to give to 4 manatees, each manatee would get 5 hyacinths. An equation for this would be:

$$20 \div 4 = 5$$

Write an equation for each food type:

1. Romaine lettuce

2. Cabbage

3. Grapes

4. Carrots