
SWIMMING ...

The hind flipper is the chief organ of locomotion, the front pair being used mainly for steering. The estimated top speed that manatees can attain is about 20 miles per hour. When swimming, they usually surface every minute or two but they commonly rest on the bottom for five minutes at a time, and have been observed to remain submerged for nearly 16 minutes.

MANATEE DISTRIBUTION ...

Manatees are only found along the south coast of Jamaica mainly off the coast of St. Elizabeth. Currently there are fewer than 20 individuals in our waters. They live in slow moving rivers and salt water bays with sandy flat bottoms between 3 – 30 meters deep.

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS

1. CNTXTIE
2. PRUSICOTH
3. EEANOIVTTG
4. SAMLAMM
5. BATIHTA
6. DEGEDEANGR
7. PSERFILP
8. AES OWC

MANATEE FACTS...

Manatees can hear very well. A female can hear faint cries from her calf over 60 meters away.

Manatees rest from 2 – 12 hours daily.

The **manatee** can't move its head sideways so by moving the flippers it can move its whole body.

Manatees play with each other in small groups.

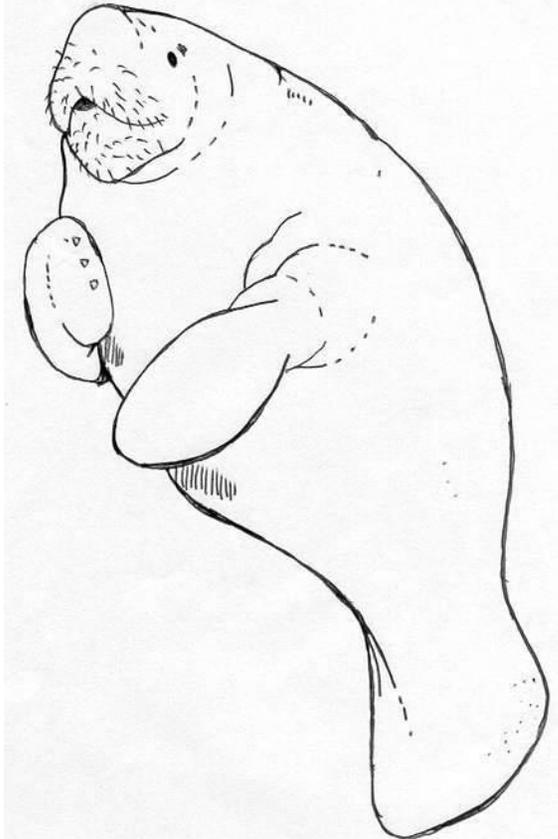
Manatees are mammals, like us, so they must breathe air.

A **manatee's** teeth are constantly being replaced as the worn down teeth fall out



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The West Indian MANATEE



or **SEA COW**

Trichechus manatus

HELP US SAVE THEM

PROTECT ME !!!

These **HARMLESS** and **GENTLE** creatures are in danger of becoming **EXTINCT** (dying out completely). Other than being very beautiful the manatee helps us by keeping our rivers and estuaries clear of weeds.

It is illegal to capture or kill manatees.

MORE ABOUT MANATEES...

BEHAVIOUR ...

Manatees are very gentle animals and have never been known to attack humans. They tend to travel alone or in small groups, usually consisting of a male, female and a young one. Occasionally they band together in herds of as many as 15.

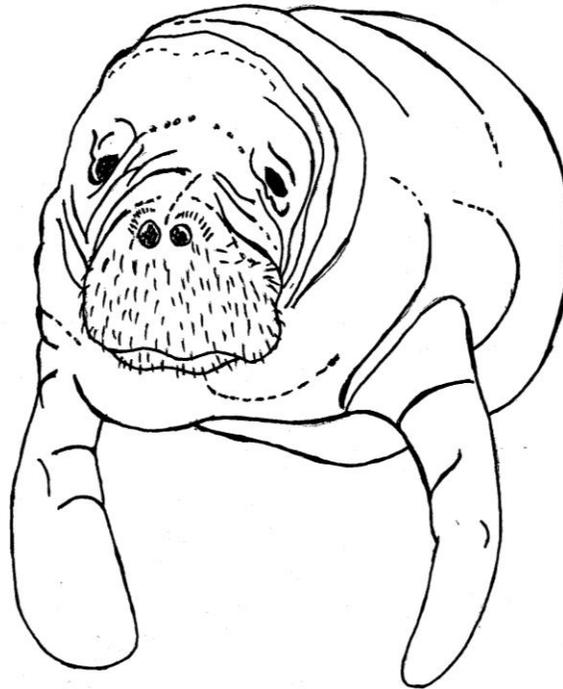
SIZE ...

Manatees may attain a length of fifteen feet although the range is generally 8-13ft, and they may weigh as much as 1,500 pounds. The bones are exceptionally heavy. The 36 rib bones weigh a total of 40 pounds.

The skull weighs 8 pounds. These figures refer to the bones housed in the collections at the Institute of Jamaica.

FEEDING...

Water plants or plants overhanging a



shoreline are the chief sources of food, and it is estimated that manatees eat a pound of vegetation for every ten pounds of body weight per day. Plants are grasped in the very large lips and stuffed in the mouth with the aid of stiff bristles located on the muzzle.

REPRODUCTION ...

Courtship consists of the male, called the bull approaching, nuzzling and embracing the cow. Occasionally he flips over on his back. Usually more than one bull takes part in a single courtship. There is some uncertainty regarding the period of gestation (Time from conception to birth). It has been variously reported as 6 months, 11 months and 13 months. The young, called calves are usually born singly although twins are also produced. Calves weigh 40 –60 pounds at birth and are slightly more than 3ft long. It is said that the cow carries the calf on her back for about 45 minutes immediately after birth and then slowly submerges and surfaces repeatedly with it for about 2 hours. There are two mammary or milk glands one at the base of each front flipper. The calves are nursed for about 2 years. Three to four years are required for a manatee to reach breeding age.