

Manatee *(Trichechus manatus)*

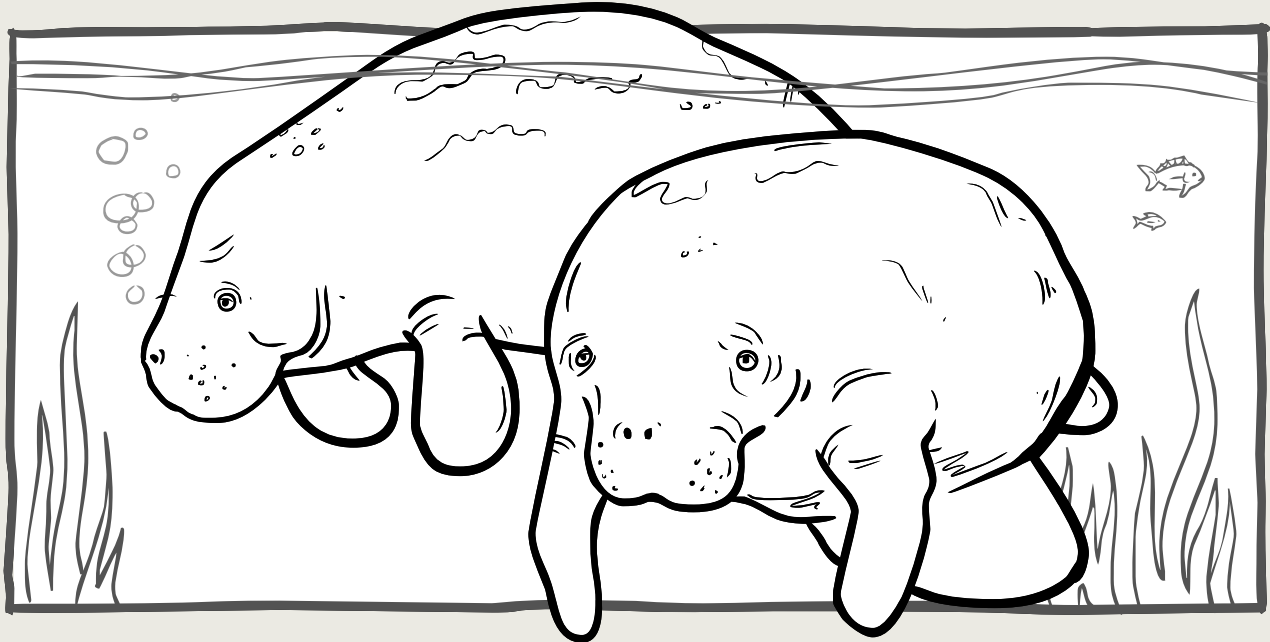
Instant ID

- ▶ Large, slow-moving, gray aquatic mammal
- ▶ Adults average 10 feet long and about 1,000 pounds
- ▶ Has two front limbs and a wide, flat tail

Native Niches

- ▶ In warmer months, found in coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean
- ▶ In colder months, found in springs, rivers and estuaries, where water is warmer
- ▶ Manatees have been spotted at more than 60 Florida State Parks
- ▶ Manatees are permanently housed at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park





Manatee *(Trichechus manatus)*

Favorite Foods

- ▶ Feeds on seagrasses and other aquatic plants
- ▶ Eats up to 100 pounds of plants per day

Critter Characteristics

- ▶ Can hold its breath for up to 20 minutes
- ▶ Calves may stay with its mother for up to 2 years

Population Protection

- ▶ Protected as an endangered species in Florida
- ▶ You can help by not feeding or touching manatees, and by following boating laws

