Third Grade Manatee Curriculum—Lesson 1: Starting to Learn about Manatees

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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])
• 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.
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