

Third Grade Manatee Curriculum—Lesson 2: *Reading Rainbow, “Sam the Sea Cow”*¹

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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 http://shopgpn.com/guides/rr/la/126_0083g.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.

1. This document is VM205, one of a series of the Veterinary Medicine—Large Animal Clinical Sciences Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date July 2015. For more lessons in the *Third Grade Manatee Curriculum* series, go to http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_third_grade_manatee_workbook. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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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.

- Who reads the story *Sam the Sea Cow*?
 - Francine Jacobs
 - Laura Kelly
 - LeVar Burton
 - Jason Robards**
- Where does baby Sam get his milk? **from under his mother's flipper**
- What part of the body do manatees use to steer themselves through the water? **FLIPPERS**
- How old is Sam when he leaves his mother? **2 years old**
- When people rescue hurt manatees, what do they often use to take the manatee out of the water? **fishing nets**
- How much do male manatees weigh?
 - 500 pounds
 - 1000–1200 pounds**
 - 2500 pounds
 - 5000 pounds
- Are female manatees bigger or smaller than male manatees? **bigger**
- What animal is the manatee's closest relative on land? **elephants**
- Which word best describes manatees?
 - Vegetarian**
 - Carnivore
 - Omnivore
 - Predator
- What body part do manatees use to grab their food? **their lips**
- Why do some manatees have scars on their backs? **because they have been hit by boats (cut by the propeller)**
- 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**
- How many people does it take to carry Bill to freedom? **8**
- What is the largest animal on earth? **blue whale**
- How long have manatees been around? **millions of years**