

Show Me Science

The Wonders of Oceanography

The Manatee

An Endangered Species

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K4597DVD
Teachers Guide

SYNOPSIS:

Take students on a mission to see what's being done to save the manatee, a marine animal sometimes known as a "sea cow" because of its size and diet, which consists mainly of vegetation. We'll journey to points in Florida where the manatee lives and to the Sea World Aquarium in Orlando. There, you'll see how researchers and scientists are studying and protecting the peaceful manatee to ensure its survival.

CURRICULUM UNITS:

Biology
Ecology
Environmental Science
General Science
Marine Biology

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

Biologist
Biotechnologist
Ecologist
Environmental Scientist
Veterinarian
Zoologist

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

This program explores the nature and habits of the manatees. These large marine mammals weigh up to fifteen hundred pounds and can grow up to twelve feet long. They are herbivores, eating about one hundred and fifty pounds of vegetation daily.

ISSUES & CRITICAL THINKING:

1. After showing the program, ask students the following questions.
2. Why do we need to learn about manatees?
3. How have we learned so much about manatees?
4. What are "marching molars" and how do they work?
5. What does "endangered" mean and what are we doing about it?
6. What are some of the ways that the space program helps manatees?

GLOSSARY:

Herbivore – An animal that feeds on plants.

Marching Molars – The manatee's teeth are all molars. They sprout in the back of the mouth and move toward the front where they replace teeth that have worn down and fallen out.

Migrate – To pass periodically from one region or climate to another for breeding or feeding.

Microscopic – Too small to be seen by the naked eye, but large enough to be studied under a microscope.

Thermal Springs – A source of hot water issuing from the ground.