

- MANATEE
- MAMMAL
- AQUATIC PLANTS
- SEAGRASS
- EAT
- PLAY
- REST
- TRAVEL
- AIR
- WATER
- FLORIDA

Find the Words in the Puzzle

S	T	N	A	L	P	C	I	T	A	U	Q	A
S	E	S	M	M	O	A	T	T	E	O	R	A
A	M	A	N	A	T	E	E	R	I	L	E	D
M	G	F	G	I	O	A	E	E	A	R	S	I
P	L	A	Y	R	N	T	N	E	E	V	T	R
A	U	I	E	M	A	M	M	A	L	S	E	O
M	T	R	O	W	U	S	U	N	M	L	M	L
M	R	E	E	N	A	M	S	N	F	L	I	F

Places to see Manatees in Florida

During the year, manatees may be found in Florida's coastal rivers, estuaries, bays and canals. These mammals generally travel to natural springs and warm-water discharges from power plants during the colder months of the year.

Manatees in the wild may be viewed at these places during the winter months:

- Blue Spring State Park - Orange City
- Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge - Crystal River
- Tampa Electric Company - Apollo Beach
- Lee County Manatee Park - Fort Myers

Manatees in captivity may be viewed in these places year-round (entrance fees required):

- Epcot - Orlando
- Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park - Homosassa Springs
- Lowry Park Zoo - Tampa
- Miami Seaquarium - Miami
- Sea World - Orlando
- South Florida Museum - Bradenton
- Mote Marine Lab - Sarasota

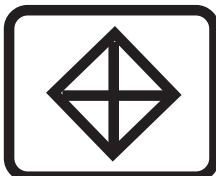
Guidelines for Protecting Manatees

If you and your family boat in Florida's waterways, stay alert. Look for the posted speed zones and manatee caution signs. Boaters should avoid manatee habitat areas such as seagrass beds and stay in the designated channels. Wear polarized sunglasses to help you see manatees and seagrass beds. Please do not discard fishing lines, hooks or nets in the water. If you dive or swim with manatees, look but do not touch them. Taking photographs is allowed, but do not pursue or chase manatees in order to get that "perfect" picture.

Regulatory Markers - International orange on a white background



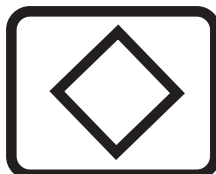
DIRECTIONS



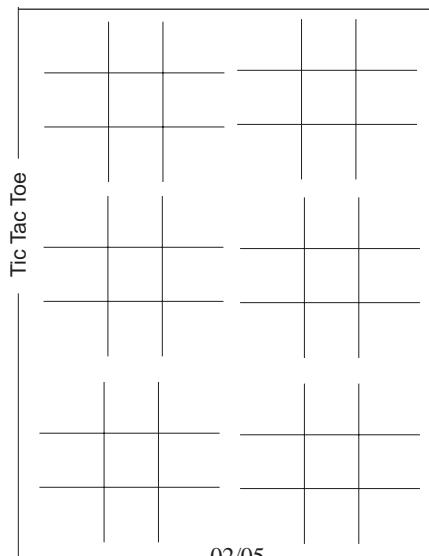
NO VESSELS ALLOWED



RESTRICTIONS - such as speed zones



DANGER - words in center of diamond will explain danger



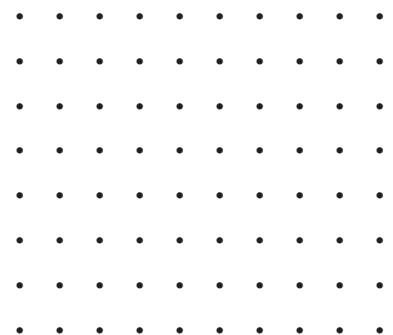
02/05

For more information, write or call the:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 620 South Meridian Street, 6-A
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

(850) 922-4330
www.MyFWC.com

Connect the Dots



Report dead, orphaned, or injured manatees, or cases of manatee harassment to:
 FWC Law Enforcement
 at 1-888-404-FWCC

Florida Manatee *(Trichechus manatus latirostris)*

FWC Imperiled
Species Management

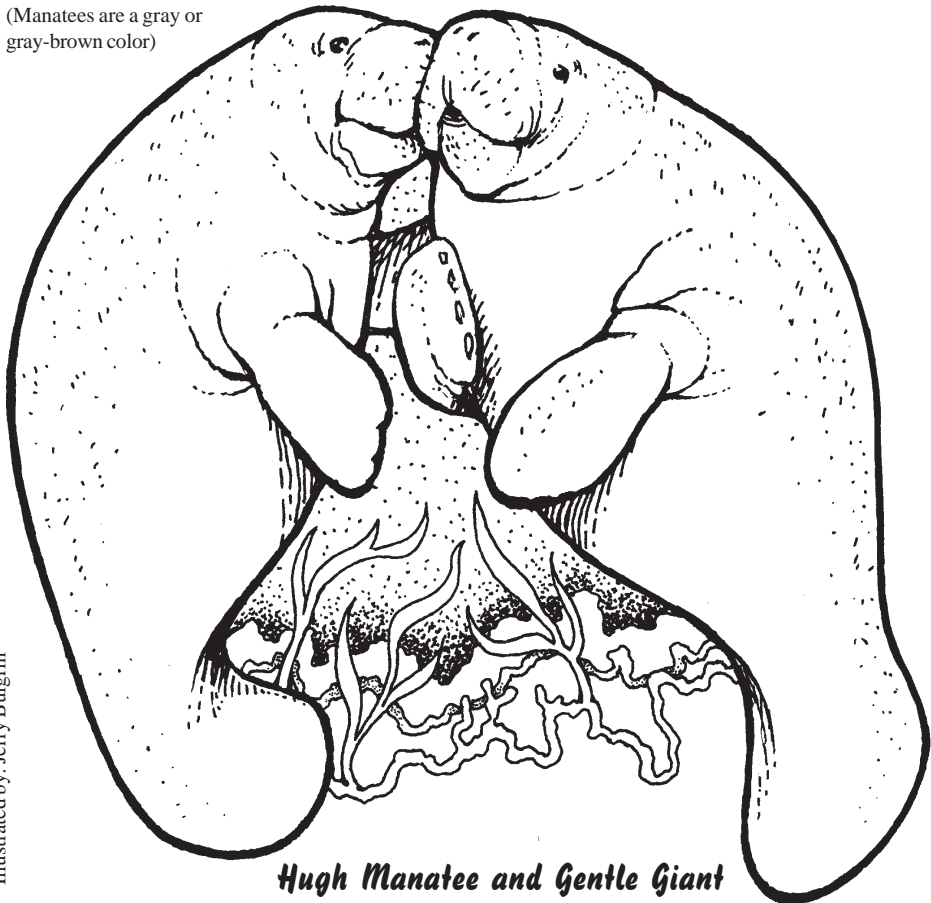


Dear Florida Resident or Visitor,

Whether traveling through or living in Florida, you and your family have the opportunity to see a truly unique species of marine mammal that inhabits Florida's waterways. The manatee is a federally listed endangered species and is protected by federal and state laws. Help a child read this activity sheet and remember to take it along with you if you visit Florida's beaches or waterways.

Color us!

(Manatees are a gray or gray-brown color)



Illustrated by: Jerry Bulgrin

Hugh Manatee and Gentle Giant

Hugh Manatee and Gentle G.

By Bonnie J. Abellera

Hi! My name is Hugh Manatee and this is my brother Gentle G., which is short for Gentle Giant. We are manatees and we live in Florida's coastal waterways. Look for us if you get a chance to boat while you are in Florida.

Like you, manatees are mammals. We start out small and then grow up big—real big. Some of my cousins are almost thirteen feet long and close to three thousand

pounds! (That's about the size and weight of a small boat or car.) We breathe air, have hair on our bodies, nurse our young, and like to stay warm in the winter.

Gentle G. and I eat a lot of aquatic plants like seagrasses, water hyacinth and water lettuce. I guess you could call us vegetarians (scientists say we're herbivores). Aquatic plants are good for us just like vegetables are good for you.

(continued)

My brother and I enjoy traveling around Florida. We have a great time playing together, rolling over and over in the water. Sometimes we travel different places and don't see each other for a while. That's okay though. I get to see a lot of my other manatee friends around Florida.

Most of us manatees spend our time eating, playing, traveling or resting. We can sleep just about anywhere, but we can usually be found resting near the surface. That's because we need to take a breath of air about every 3-5 minutes. When I need air, I poke my nose out for a deep breath and then drift back to sleep. If you see me or some of my family or friends floating quietly just below the surface, we're probably resting. Please don't make any loud noises or splashing, just let us sleep. We've probably just finished eating, playing or traveling and we need our rest.

Please watch out for us when you are boating on Florida's waterways. Remember to drive your boats slow and to wear your polarized sunglasses so you can see us better. (Please remember to wear your life jackets, too! We want you to be safe as well.)

Gentle G. and I hope you have a great time wherever you are traveling. Stay safe! □ □ Hugh Manatee

