

Manatee

Florida Manatee *(Trichechus manatus)*

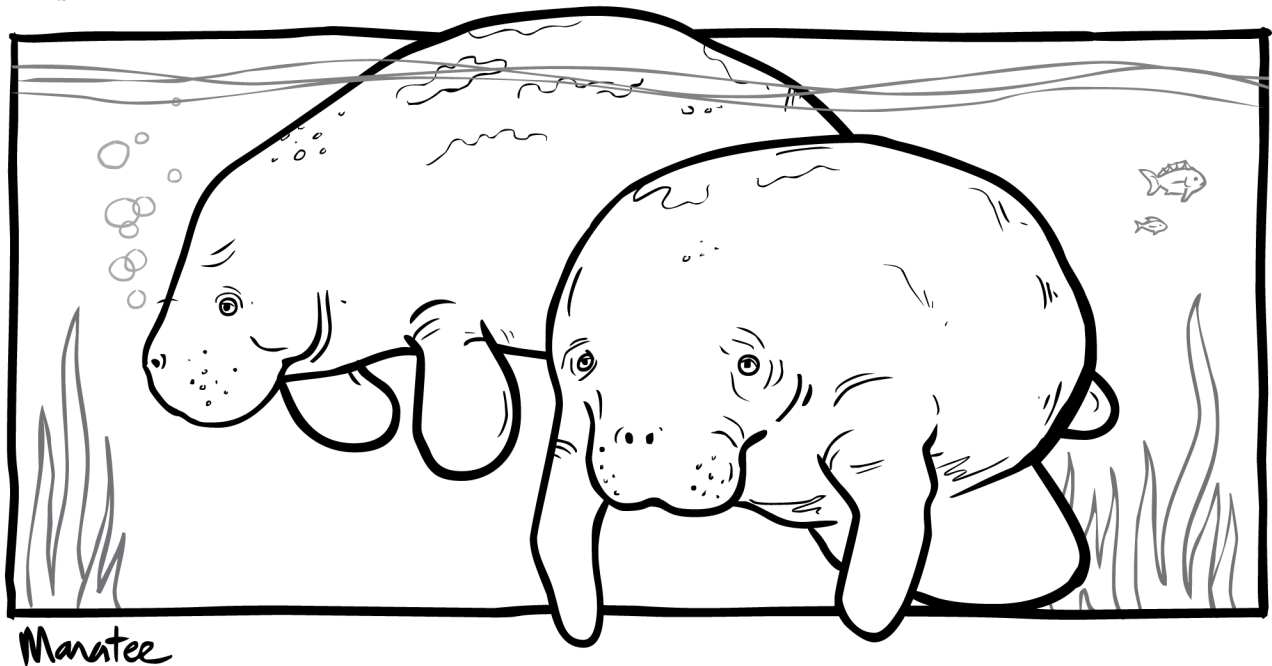
Instant ID

- 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
- Can be viewed year-round at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park





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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