

The Florida Manatee

Answer Key

1. Which of the following are species of manatee? Circle all that apply.
 - a. dugong
 - b. West Indian manatee
 - c. African manatee
 - d. Amazonian manatee
2. What other animal is a close relative to the manatee and found in the Sirenia family?
 - a. hippopotamus
 - b. African elephant
 - c. American crocodile
 - d. elephant seal
3. What environmental and climate conditions do manatees prefer?
 - a. Warm tropical waters
 - b. Dense cold saltwater
 - c. Warm and and dry soils
4. Manatees feed on a lot of seagrass, made of abrasive plant material. Which anatomical feature is an important adaptation to their feeding habits?
 - a. Marching molars
 - b. Sharp Incisor teeth
 - c. Sensitive tongues
5. How do manatees find their way around in murky waters?
 - a. Sharp eyesight
 - b. Nerves in their hair follicles
 - c. Keen sense of smell
6. Manatees have mineralized rib bones that act as _____ to help them sink to the bottom.
 - a. ballast
 - b. buoyancy
 - c. flotation

7. What are some of the major contributors/reasons for the disappearance of manatees? Circle all that apply.

a. Habitat loss

b. Starvation

c. Boat Strikes

d. Crocodile attacks

8. How is the disappearance of seagrass meadows affecting the Florida manatee?

Seagrasses are the preferred food for the Florida manatee. Many of Florida's
seagrass beds are collapsing due to pollution, leaving less food available to our
population of manatees.

9. When a manatee is spotted in the wild, it is important to practice passive observation. What does this mean?

Passive observation means you don't chase or pursue the animals, and don't pet or
touch the animals.

10. Why is the Florida manatee considered a conservation success story?

The Florida manatee was once listed as an endangered species. Not long ago,
there were as few as 1,000 manatees left. Through conservation and protection, today
there are thousands more in Florida's waters.