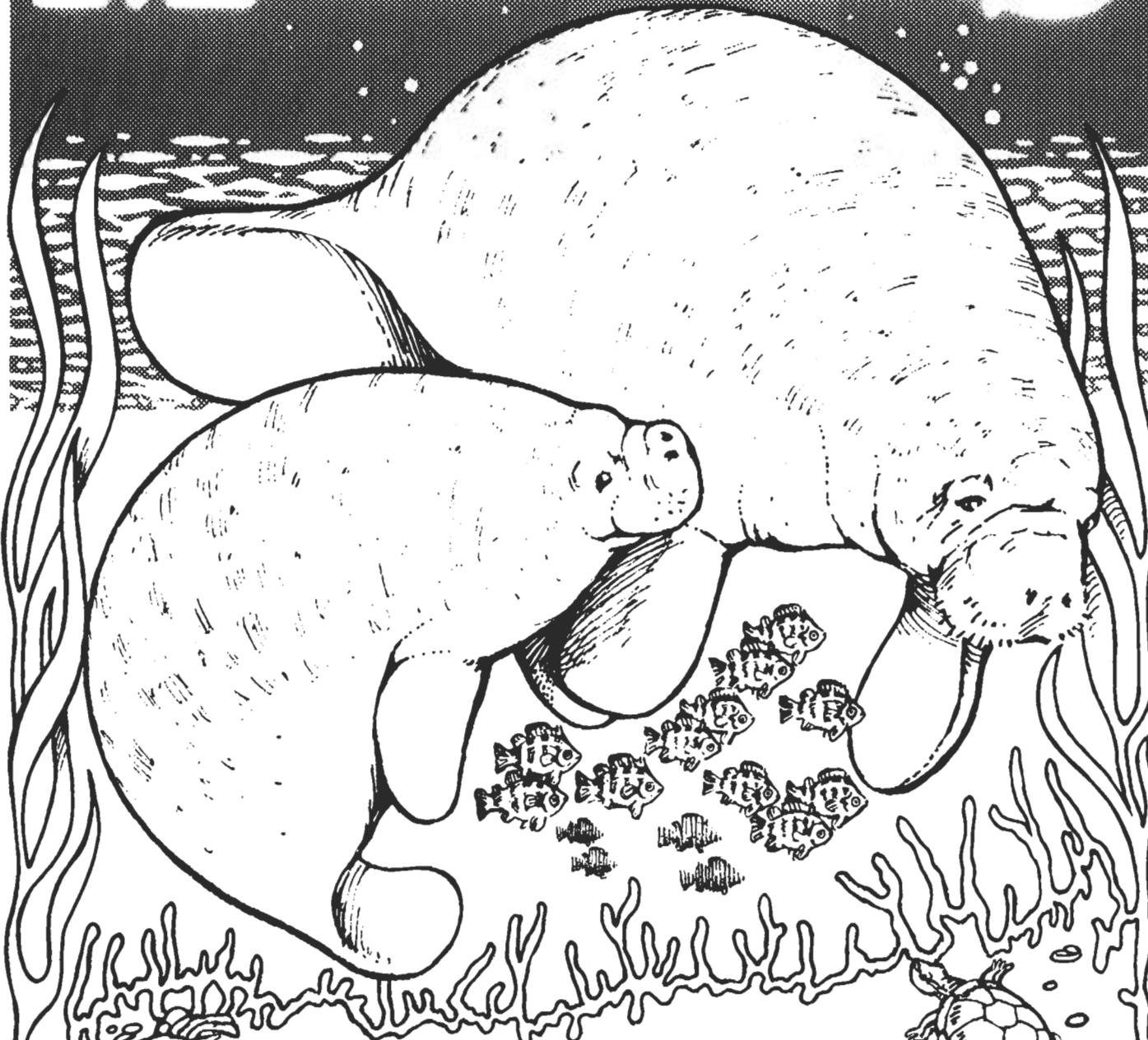


A COLORING AND ACTIVITY BOOK

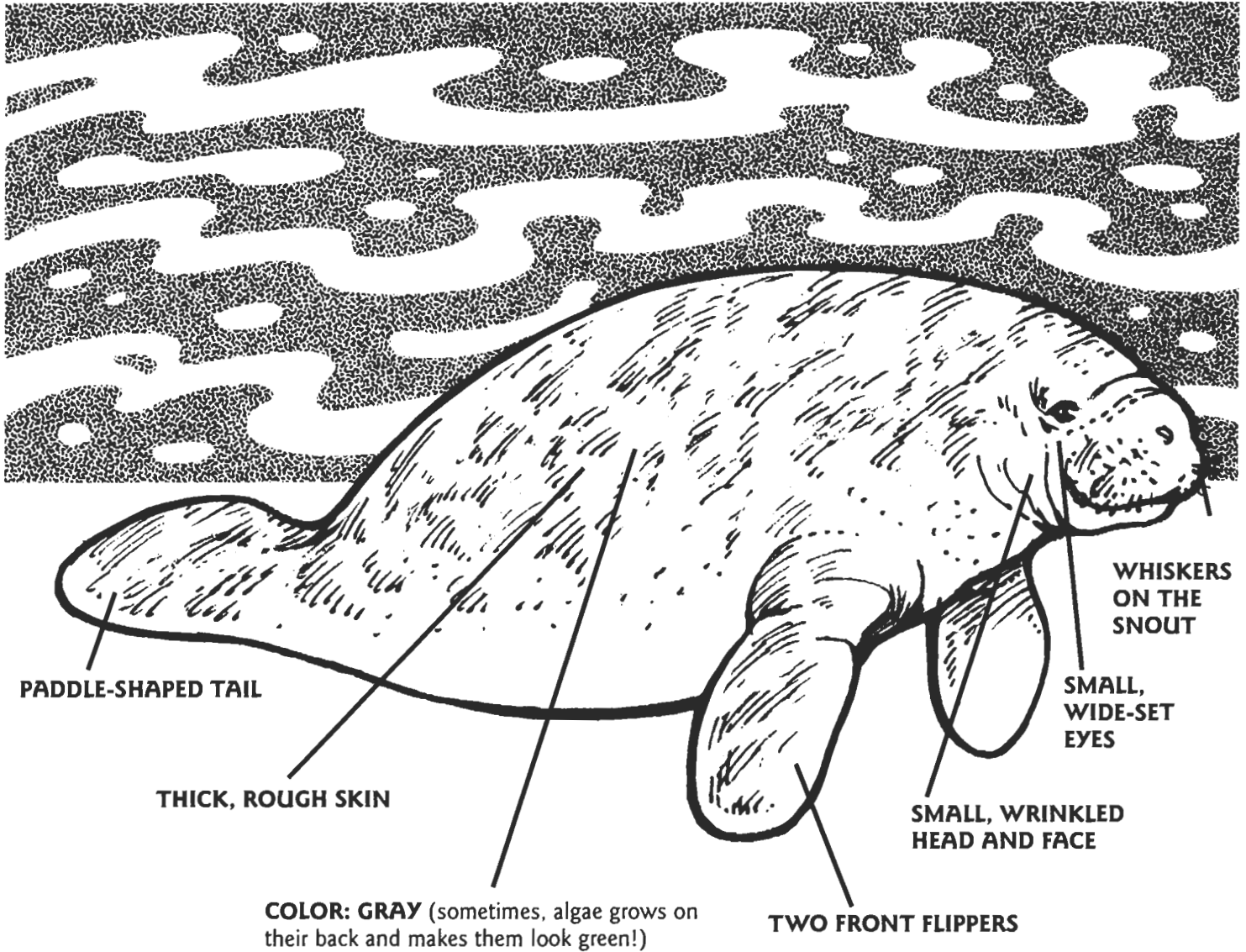
MANATEES



Florida's Gentle Giants

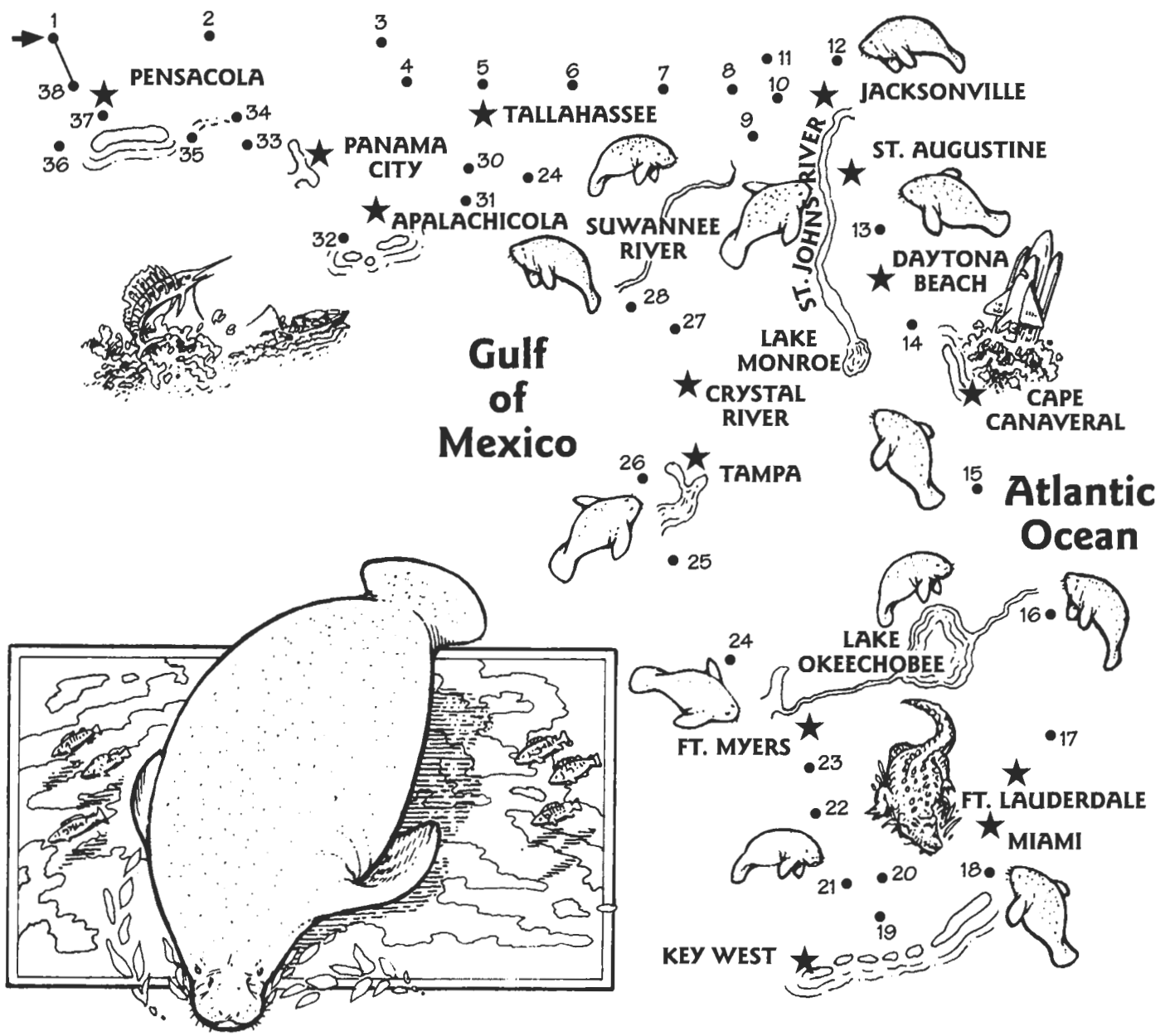
Illustrated by Jerry Bulgrin

What does a manatee look like?



The average adult manatee is about 10 feet long and weighs between 800 and 1,200 pounds.

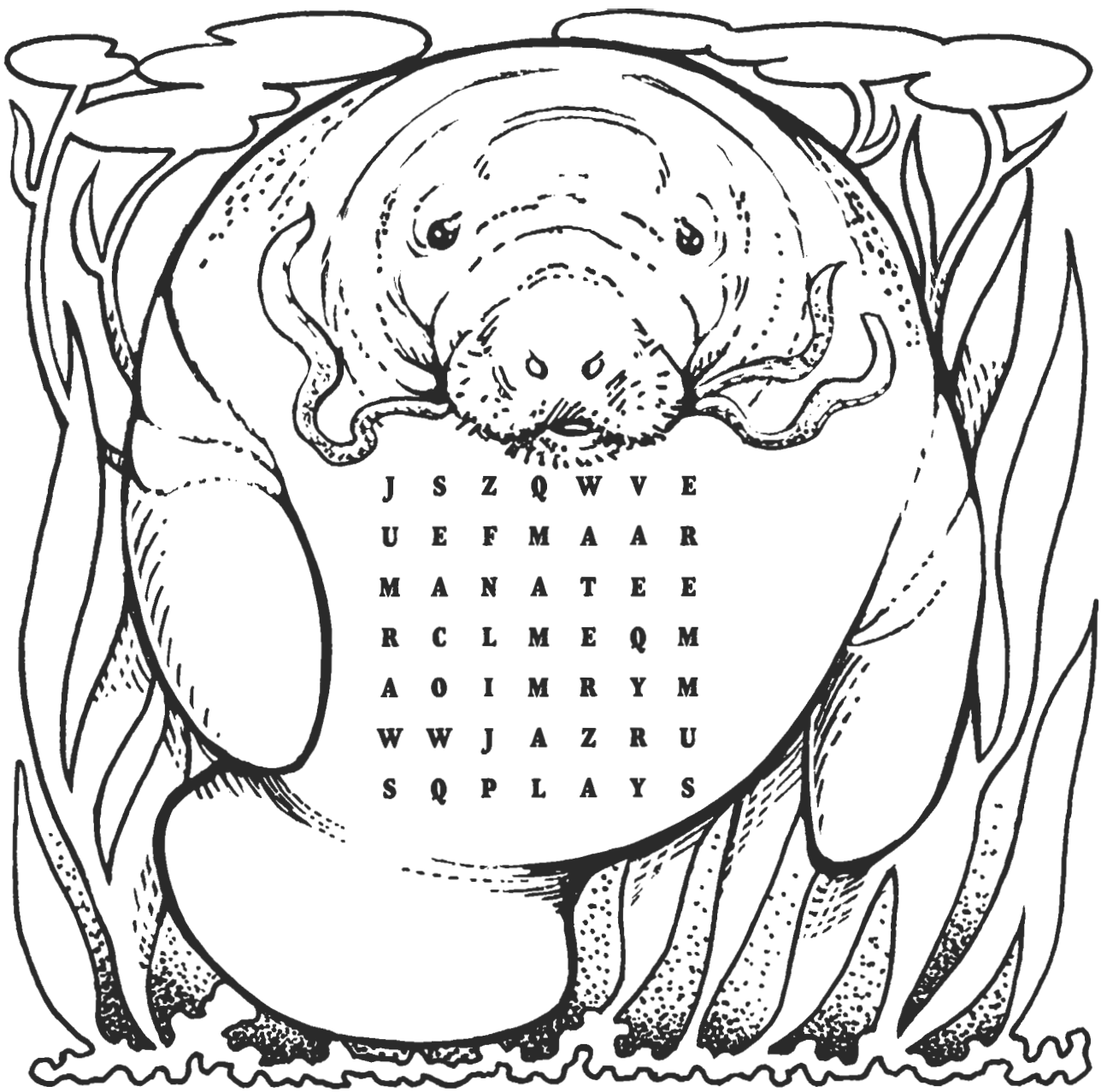
Connect the dots to see where manatees live!



All manatees live in shallow, slow-moving rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals and coastal areas.

They are found:

- In all of Florida's coastal waters.
- In the St. Johns River from Jacksonville to south of Lake Monroe.
- At times, in the summer, as far west as Texas and as far north as Virginia!



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

Answers on page 8.

Now, find these words hidden in the manatee:

EAT • MAMMAL • MANATEE • PLAY • SEA COW • SUMMER • SWIM • WARM • WATER

(Hint: Look for words running across, up, down or diagonally or even words spelled backward!)

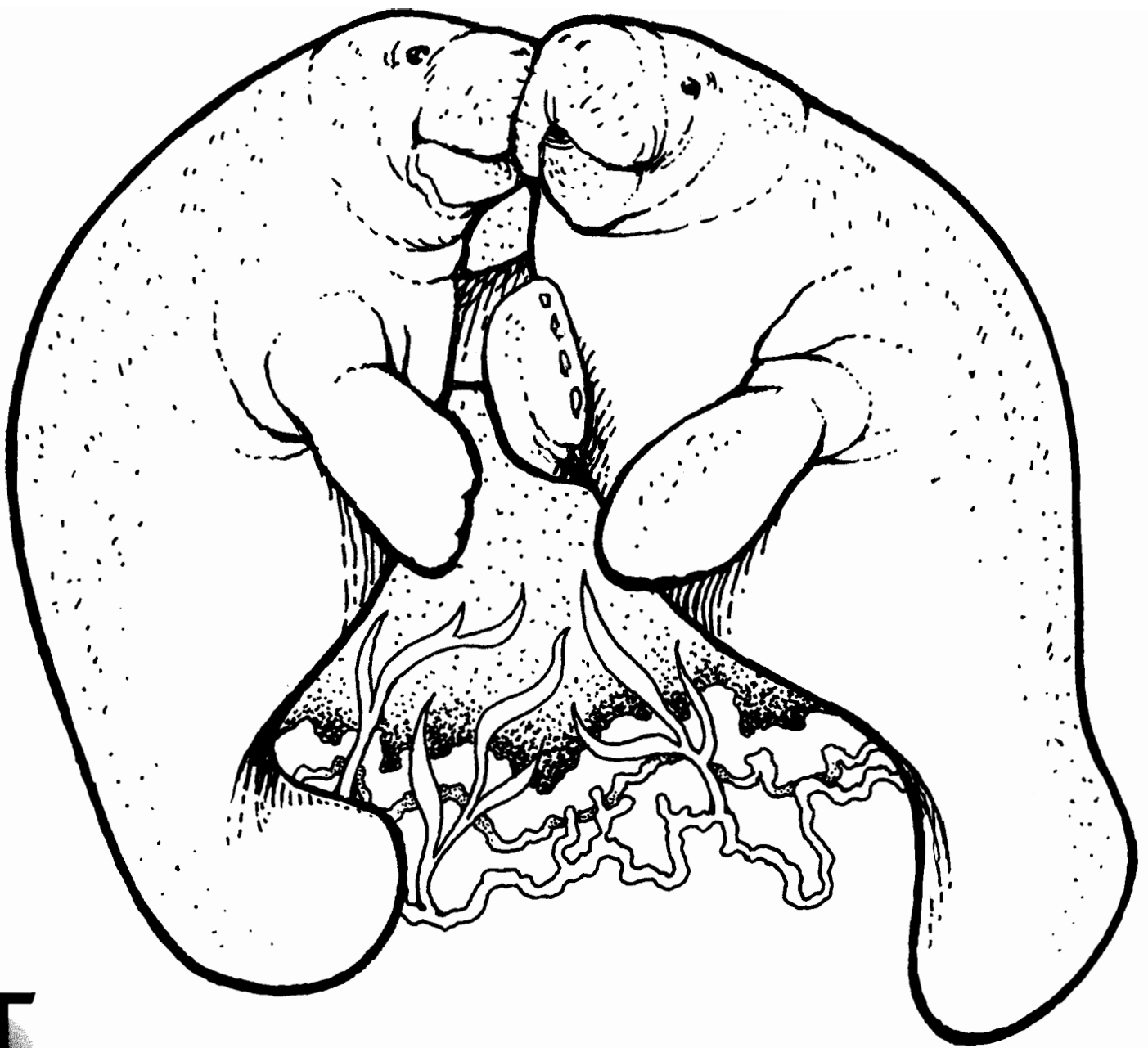
What do manatees eat in one day?

Manatees feed on a large variety of aquatic plants. They can eat 10–15% of their body weight in vegetation daily.

How long do manatees live?

No one knows for sure. Scientists believe they can live 60 years or more.

FIGURE IT OUT!
How much would a 1,000-pound manatee eat?



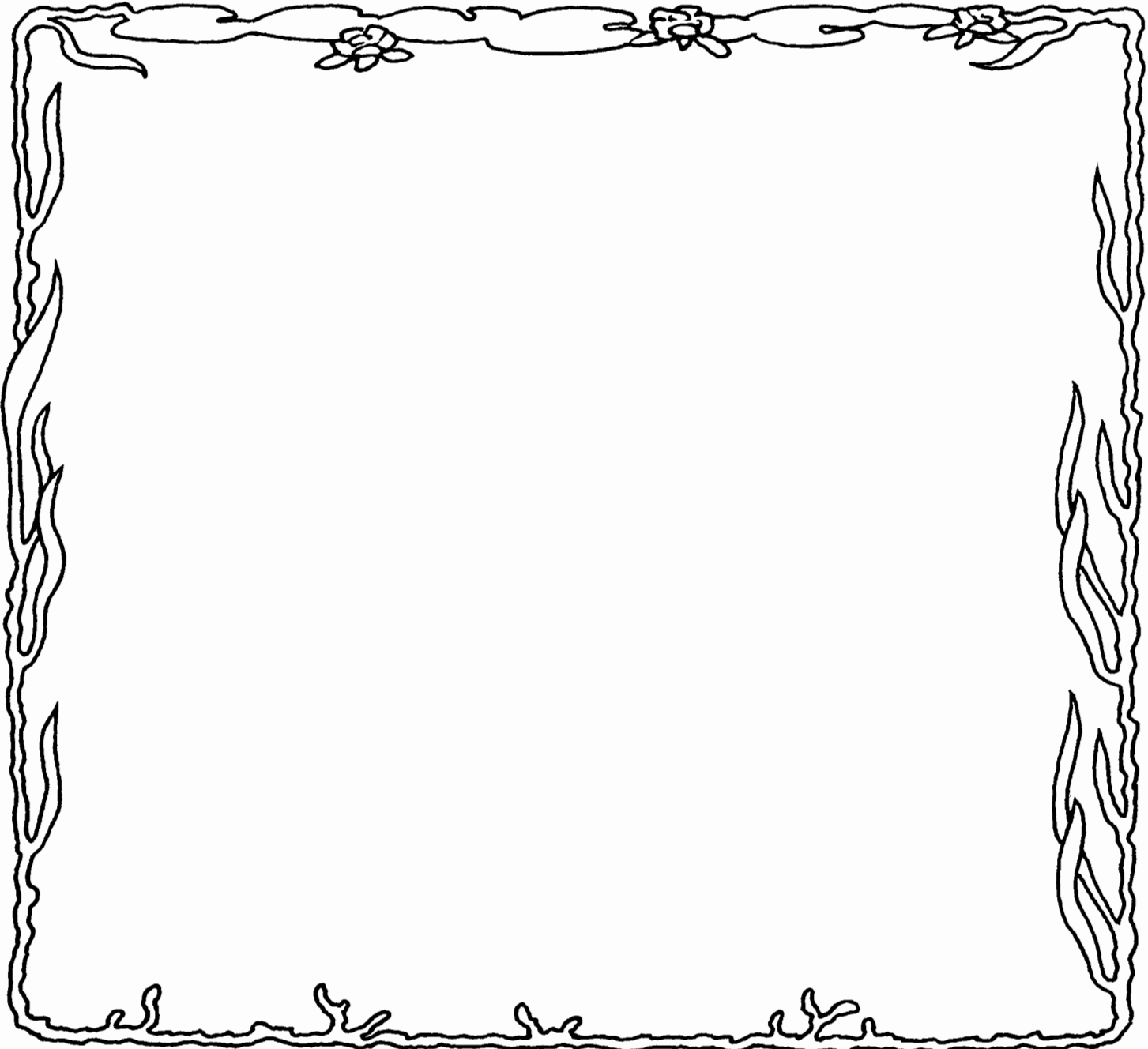
Trivia

- Manatees are mammals like us, so they must breathe air.
- Manatees usually come up for air every three to five minutes, but they can hold their breath underwater for as long as 20 minutes!
- A manatee's heart beats at a rate of 50 to 60 times per minute.
- Manatees have “marching molars!” New teeth form at the back of the jaw, wear down as they move forward, and eventually fall out.
- “Kissing” may be a form of communication between manatees.
- Manatees do not have eyelashes.
- Manatees are related to the elephant and the hyrax. (What's a hyrax? Do some research and see if you can find out.)
- Female manatees usually only have one calf at a time. Twins are rare.
- Manatees can swim up to 20 miles per hour in short bursts, but they usually only swim about 3 to 5 miles per hour.
- Manatees make sounds like chirps, whistles or squeaks that are used for communication.

Manatee Protection Tips

- Look, but don't touch – observe manatees from a distance.
- Enjoy manatees, but please don't feed them or give them water.
- Stash your trash! Recycle your litter or throw it in a trash container.
- Watch for manatees when boating: obey speed zone signs and avoid seagrass beds where manatees might be feeding.
- Call 1-888-404-FWCC (3922), #FWC or *FWC, or use VHF Channel 16 on a marine radio if you spot an injured manatee.

Draw a picture showing how YOU can help manatees!

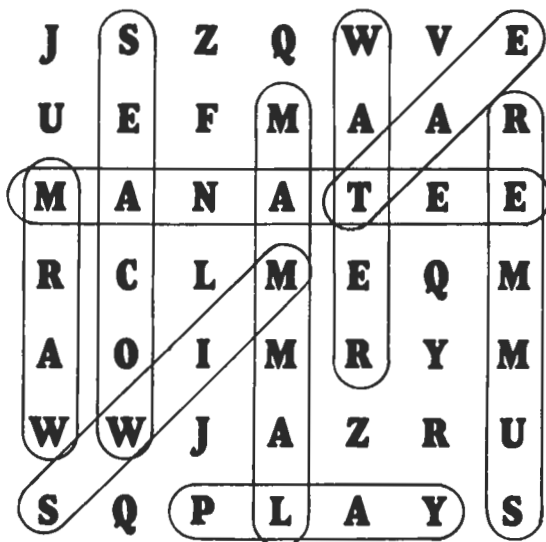


Action Kids!

You can make a difference for manatees. Here's some ways you can help:

1. Learn all about manatees and why they are endangered. Visit www.savethemanatee.org and go to the Manatee Info section.
2. Paint a "manatee mural" for a wall at school, or create a manatee scene for a bulletin board at home. Include the elements that manatees need to survive and ideas about what we can do to help save them.
3. Write a letter or article about manatees for your school or community newspaper.
4. Put together a class presentation or play about manatees. Present it to other classes or community groups.
5. Contact Florida's governor and ask that manatees and their habitat be protected. Be creative! You can draw pictures, write letters, or send poems.
 The Governor
 The Capitol
 Tallahassee, FL 32399
6. You can find other suggestions at the Take Action! page of the web site above. Click on the "Action Kids!" link.

Answers to Word Find



Manatee Maze

