CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Florida Manatee

Trichechus manatus latirostris

The Florida manatee is a subspecies of the West Indian manatee, and the single fact that governs its entire life is that it cannot handle cold. It is a huge, slow, wholly herbivorous mammal with very…

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal
Family: Trichechidae
Habitat: Shallow coastal waters, rivers, estuaries, and freshwater springs
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 40-60 years
Weight: 400-1,300 pounds
Scientific name: Trichechus manatus latirostris

Did you know?

- Manatees have no natural predators, but their greatest threat comes from human-related activities, especially boat strikes.
- Cold water kills it, so manatees crowd into warm springs and power-plant outflows each winter — and now depend on those plants so heavily that closur…

What I learned

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