CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



West Indian Manatee

Trichechus manatus

The manatee's closest living relatives are elephants — not whales or seals — and the kinship shows in its thick grey hide, its nails, and the way it handles its teeth. Manatees have "marching molars"…

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal
Family: Trichechidae
Habitat: Shallow coastal waters, rivers, estuaries
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 40–60 years
Weight: 400–590 kg (880–1,300 lbs)
Scientific name: Trichechus manatus

Did you know?

- The bones in a manatee's flipper contain finger-like structures, similar to a human hand, which help them manipulate food and navigate their environm…
- Manatees are more closely related to elephants than to whales or seals — and still have nails on their flippers. Their molars "march" forward through…

What I learned

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