

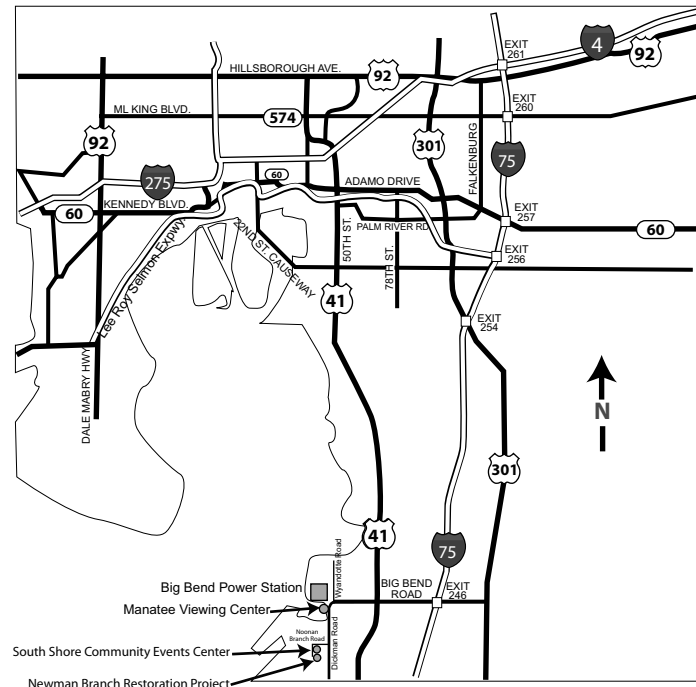
## Manatee Protection Tips

- 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.

### Thank you for visiting the Manatee Viewing Center

6990 Dickman Rd., Apollo Beach, FL 33572  
[tampaelectric.com/manatee](http://tampaelectric.com/manatee)

The Manatee Viewing Center is open to the public from November 1 through April 15. During its operational season, the center is open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Thanksgiving, at 3 p.m. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Easter). When the center is open, make your reservations here for your class or group to visit the Manatee Viewing Center. Pets are not allowed, but service dogs are permitted. For more information, call (813) 228-4289.

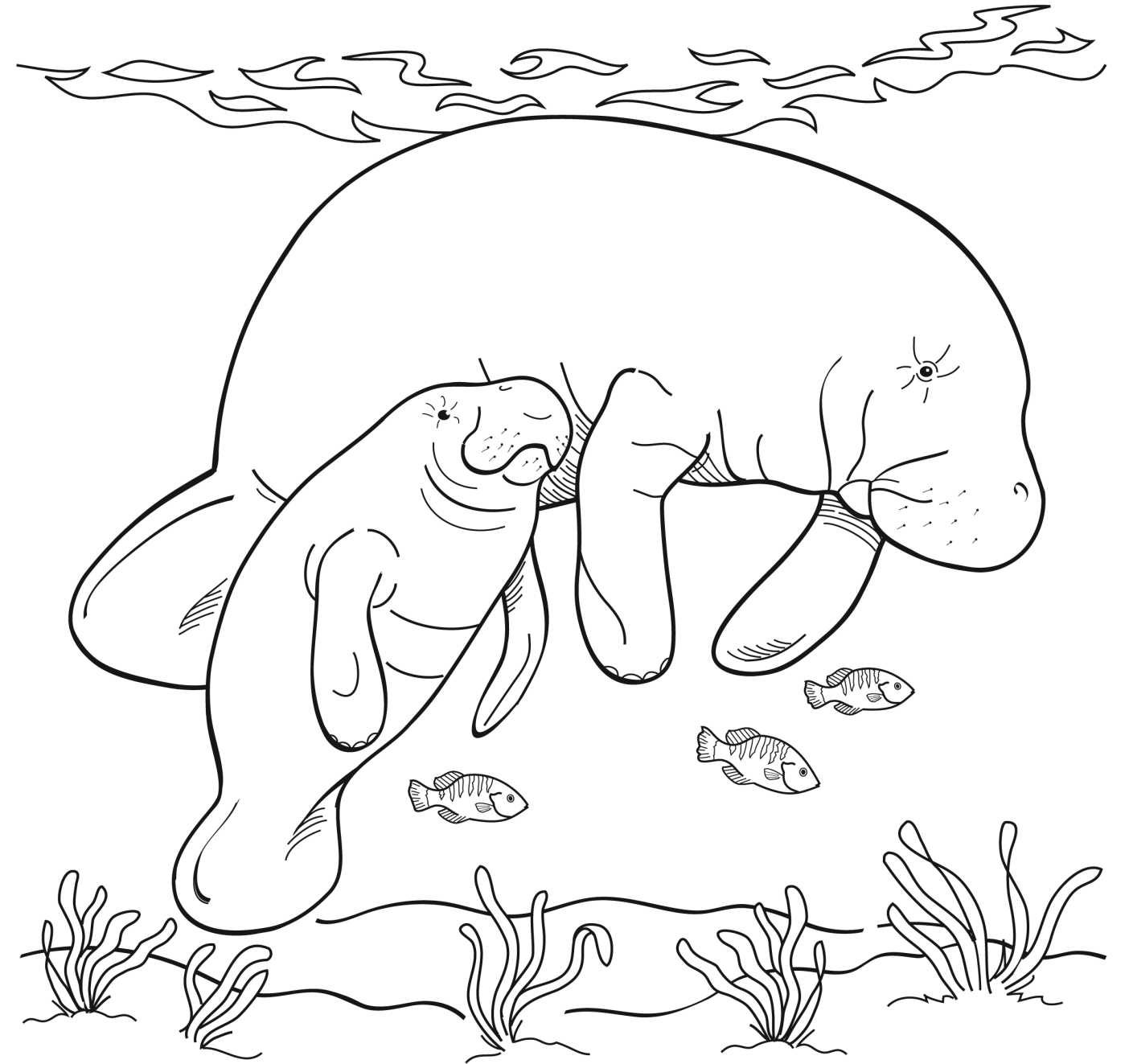


### Answers to Word Find

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

# Manatees

## Florida's Gentle Giants



Manatee graphics provided by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
[MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com)



## What are Manatees?

The Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) is a subspecies of the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and are endangered marine mammals found in Florida's waterways. Manatee fossils found in Florida date back 45 million years. Recent fossil discoveries in Jamaica show that manatees evolved from a four-footed, wading, plant-eating land animal.



Female manatee  
(cow) and her  
baby (calf)

## What does a Manatee look like?

Manatees are large, round and gray with leathery looking thick skin. From the blunt whiskered snout, the manatee's body rounds out to a torpedo shape and then tapers to a flat, paddle-shaped tail. Two forelimb flippers, with up to four nails, are located near its head. Like all mammals, manatees have hair on their bodies. Although the hair is very sparse, it exists in stiff short strands all the way down to the tail.

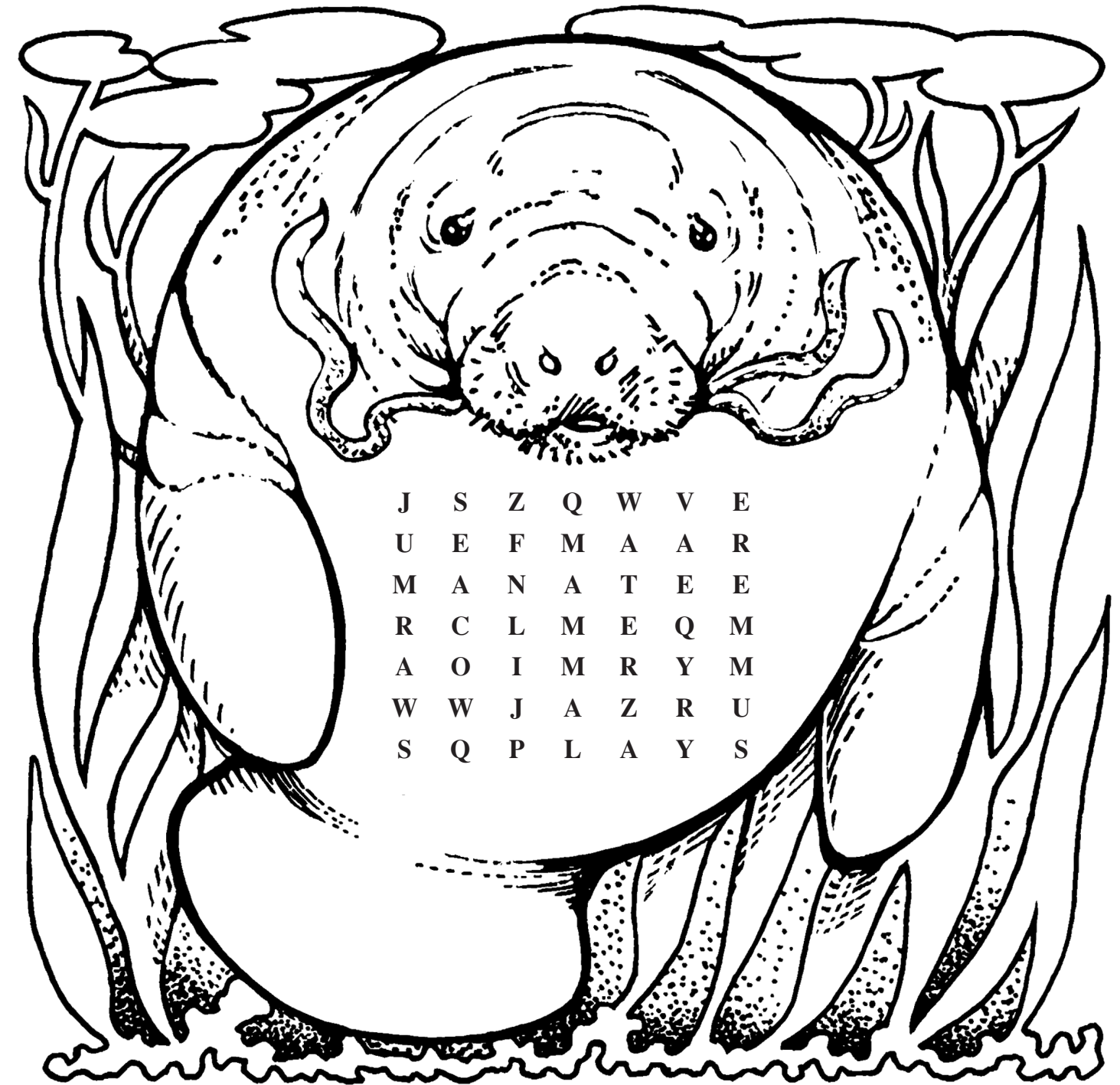
Although the average manatee is ten feet long and weighs about one thousand pounds, manatees can get much larger.

## How long is the average adult manatee?

The average adult manatee is about 10 feet long.

## How many nails could a manatee have on its flippers?

A manatee could have up to four nails on each of its two flippers.



**N**ow, 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?