



Let's go on a Virtual Manatee Scavenger Hunt!

Find answers on the internet or books from your local library. See how many of the questions below you can find the answer to, learning more about these gentle giants.

1. What type of animal is a manatee?
2. What is the average length of a manatee?
3. How many species of manatees are there, and where are each species found?
4. What is one thing that makes a manatee different from other marine mammals?
5. What does "prehensile" mean and how does it apply to a manatee?
6. How much does a manatee weigh?
7. Why are manatees endangered?
8. Compare the digestion of food for a human and a manatee? What is the difference?
9. Where is the closest place to see a manatee?
10. How long before a baby manatee starts eating vegetation?
11. How long does a manatee calf remain with its mother?

Answer Key 1. Mammal 2. 10-13 feet 3. 3 species: West Indian- found in US (Florida) to Caribbean and Northern Most Coast of South America, West African- Africa, Amazonian- South America, Amazon 4. It is an herbivore 5. Strong - - muscular, a manatee's lips are prehensile like an elephant's trunk 6. Average is 1000 lbs but some get up to 3300 lbs 7. Mostly because of human related causes, habitat destruction, pollution, boat collisions 8. A human takes around 24 hours, a manatee takes a week from consumption to expulsion of waste products. Manatees are hind gut digestors, meaning their digestion takes place in the large intestine. 9. Florida 10. Weeks 11. About 2 years