My Manatee Fact File

Read the manatee fact page, then fill in your fact file.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw a manatee

Manatee facts

Size: _____

Weight: _____

Lifespan: _____

Diet: _____

Habitat: _____

Where: _____

Status: _____

Match the word to its meaning

1. herbivore ____	A. a flowering plant that grows underwater in shallow seas
2. Sirenia ____	B. a warm spring or other warm spot where manatees gather in winter
3. calf ____	C. the group of plant-eating sea mammals that includes manatees and dugongs
4. seagrass ____	D. a baby manatee
5. warm-water refuge ____	E. an animal that eats only plants

The most amazing thing I learned about manatees

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Answer Key

Manatee Fact File

Manatee facts

Scientific name:	Trichechus manatus (West Indian)
Size:	Usually 9–10 ft; up to 13 ft
Weight:	About 1,000 lb; up to 3,500 lb
Lifespan:	Can live 60 years or more
Diet:	Seagrass and other water plants
Habitat:	Warm coasts, rivers and springs
Where:	The Americas and West Africa
Status:	IUCN Vulnerable (all 3 species)

Accept any answer that matches the fact page; sizes and lifespans are approximate.

Word match

1–E, 2–C, 3–D, 4–A, 5–B

Wow facts to share

- A manatee's closest living relatives are elephants and hyraxes.
- Its back teeth keep moving forward and are replaced all its life.
- Manatees can eat up to about 10% of their body weight in a day.