Lesson 1: Starting to learn about manatees with *Sam the Sea Cow*

**Objectives:** Students will raise questions about manatees and discuss what they already know. Students will start to learn about manatee biology.

**What you will need:**
- Posterboard or electronic way to prepare a KWL chart that can be referenced later in the school year
- A copy of *Sam the Sea Cow* worksheet for each student

**Strategy:**
1. Create a KWL chart. Have students suggest items to fill in under K and W (L will be completed later in the school year.) Post this chart in the classroom to refer to during future manatee lessons.
2. Either have students read *Sam the Sea Cow* individually, or read it to the class as a group.
3. Have students complete the *Sam the Sea Cow* worksheet.

**Standards addressed:** LA.3.1.5.1 or LA.3.1.5.2; LA.3.2.1.2; LA.3.2.1.6; LA 3.2.1.8

This activity is available online at http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/manatees.html
Sam The Sea Cow

Worksheet

1. Sam is a Sea Cow.
   Another word for Sea Cow is M___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

2. Even though Sam lives in the water what does he need to breathe? ________________ (Hint: What do you need to breathe?)

3. What do we call a baby manatee? ________________

4. When Sam was a tiny baby, what did his mother feed him?
   ________________________________.

5. Sam’s tail is called his P ___ DD ___ ___.

6. Sam’s arms are called FL ___ PP ___ ___ S.

7. Sam lives at the Seaquarium for a year. He is then let go in a river. Many manatees go to this river in the winter. What is the name of the river?
   ____________________________________________________

This activity is available online at http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/manatees.html


**Sam The Sea Cow**

Answer Key

1. Sam is a Sea Cow.  
   Another word for Sea Cow is MANATEE.

2. Even though Sam lives in the water what does he need to breathe?  ____AIR____ (Hint: What do you need to breathe?)

3. What do we call a baby manatee?  ____CALF____

4. When Sam was a tiny baby, what did his mother feed him?  
   ____MILK___________.

5. Sam’s tail is called his PADDLE.

6. Sam’s arms are called FLIPPERS.

7. Sam lives at the Seaquarium for a year. He is then let go in a river. Many manatees go to this river in the winter. What is the name of the river?  
   ______CRYSTAL RIVER__________________________________

This activity is available online at http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/manatees.html