Lesson 2: Reading Rainbow—*Sam the Sea Cow*

**Objective:** Students learn about threats to manatees

**You will need:**
- A copy of the Reading Rainbow DVD, *Sam the Sea Cow*
- A copy of the student worksheet for each student
- A copy of *Sam the Sea Cow* teacher’s guide (optional)

**Strategy:**
1. As a class, watch the Reading Rainbow DVD, *Sam the Sea Cow* (30 minutes.)
2. Have students complete the student worksheet while watching the DVD.
3. Have a class discussion about the answers (also refer to the *Sam the Sea Cow* teacher’s guide for discussion ideas.)

**Standard addressed:** LA.3.4.2.2

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

As you watch the movie, look and listen for the answers to the following questions.

1. Who reads the story Sam the Sea Cow?
   a. Francine Jacobs
   b. Laura Kelly
   c. LeVar Burton
   d. Jason Robards

2. Where does baby Sam get his milk?

3. What part of the body do manatees use to steer themselves through the water? __ __ __ __ __ __ __

4. How old is Sam when he leaves his mother? ______________

5. When people rescue hurt manatees, what do they often use to take the manatee out of the water?

6. How much do male manatees weigh?
   a. 500 pounds
   b. 1000-1200 pounds
   c. 2500 pounds
   d. 5000 pounds

7. Are female manatees bigger or smaller than male manatees?

This activity is available online at http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/manatees.html
8. What animal have manatees evolved from?

________________________________________________________________________

9. Which word best describes manatees?
   a. Vegetarian
   b. Carnivore
   c. Omnivore
   d. Predator

10. What body part do manatees use to grab their food?

________________________________________________________________________

11. Why do some manatees have scars on their backs?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

12. How much did Barnacle Bill grow in the 18 months between the time he was rescued and the time he was released into the wild?

________________________________________________________________________

13. How many people does it take to carry Bill to freedom? _____

14. What is the largest animal on earth? _____________________

15. How long have manatees been around?

________________________________________________________________________
As you watch the movie, look and listen for the answers to the following questions.

1. Who reads the story *Sam the Sea Cow*?
   a. Francine Jacobs
   b. Laura Kelly
   c. LeVar Burton
   d. Jason Robards

2. Where does baby Sam get his milk?

   from under his mother’s flipper

3. What part of the body do manatees use to steer themselves through the water? **FLIPPER**

4. How old is Sam when he leaves his mother? __2 years old____

5. When people rescue hurt manatees, what do they often use to take the manatee out of the water?

   Fishing nets

6. How much do male manatees weigh?
   e. 500 pounds
   f. 1000-1200 pounds
   g. 2500 pounds
   h. 5000 pounds

7. Are female manatees bigger or smaller than male manatees?

   bigger

8. What animal have manatees evolved from?

This activity is available online at http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/manatees.html
9. Which word best describes manatees?
   i. Vegetarian
   j. Carnivore
   k. Omnivore
   l. Predator

10. What body part do manatees use to grab their food?
    their lips

11. Why do some manatees have scars on their backs?
    because they have been hit by boats (cut by the propeller)

12. How much did Barnacle Bill grow in the 18 months between the time he was rescued and the time he was released into the wild?
    one foot

13. How many people does it take to carry Bill to freedom?  _8_

14. What is the largest animal on earth?  _blue whale_

15. How long have manatees been around?
    _millions of years_