

# Manatee Sanctuary Area

**What is a manatee sanctuary?** A manatee sanctuary area is area that is off limits to human activity.

**How is a manatee sanctuary created?** A manatee sanctuary is created through scientific research. Scientists consider what areas are vital to manatee survival based on water temperature and areas where they can feed and rest without being disturbed.

**What is the best way for you to view manatees?** In order to ensure that the manatees stay undisturbed and safe you should look but never touch manatees.

**Where can you find manatees?** Manatees can be found in shallow, slow-moving rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals, and coastal areas. In the winter months you are more likely to find manatees in Florida and in the summer months they are most commonly sighted in Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina.

**What type of behavior can you expect from a manatee?** Manatees are known as gentle, slow moving animals that spend a lot of time resting, eating, and traveling as they are migratory animals.

**What types of legal protection is there for manatees?** Manatees located in the United States are protected under federal law by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Harassing, hunting, capturing, or killing any marine mammals are illegal due to these laws.

**How long do manatees live?** The average lifespan of a manatee is 60 years or more.

**What are some of the dangers manatees face?** Deadly collisions with watercrafts, swallowing fish hooks or litter, and loss of habitat.

## Objectives:

### Sixth Grade:

Explain the difference between an experiment and scientific investigation and the benefits and limitations of each.

Understand what types of questions scientists ask when researching possible manatee sanctuaries.

Locate a manatee sanctuary using latitude and longitude.

How do you think people affect the environment especially manatee sanctuaries.

Write a short story or limerick about manatees using appropriate format and figurative language.

Compare and order decimals and find their approximate location on a number line.

**Science:**

SC.6.N.1.3 Explain the difference between an experiment and other types of scientific investigation, and explain the relative benefits and limitations of each.

Explain the difference between an experiment and other types of scientific investigation and explain the benefits and limitations of each. In order to determine what areas should be designated manatee sanctuaries scientists use scientific research. What types of questions do you think scientists ask themselves when researching possible manatee sanctuaries?

**Social Studies:**

SS.6.G.1.1 Use latitude and longitude coordinates to understand the relationship between people and places on the Earth.

Use latitude and longitude to find a manatee sanctuary and write down some of your observations about the location of the sanctuary and how people could affect where these sanctuaries are located; how do humans impact the environment, specifically manatee sanctuaries?

**Reading and Language Arts:**

LA.6.4.1.2 The student will write a variety of expressive forms (e.g., short play, song lyrics, historical fiction, limericks) that employ figurative language, rhythm, dialogue, characterization, and/or appropriate format.

Write a song lyric or limerick about manatees using the information you learned today, appropriate format, and figurative language.

**Mathematics:**

MA.6.A.5.2 Compare and order fractions, decimals, and percents, including finding their approximate location on a number line.

Imagine that you have numerous manatee sanctuaries that all have different areas.

- A.) 21.1 miles
- B.) 12.3 miles
- C.) 19.4 miles
- D.) 6.4 miles
- E.) 4.1 miles
- F.) 1.2 miles
- G.) 11.4 miles

Draw a number line and place the manatee sanctuaries in the appropriate spots based on length.