

Song of the Sirenian

OBJECTIVE

Students will learn characteristics of manatees while singing a song.

MATERIALS

- ☐ copies of song below

ACTION

1. Pass out copies of the song. Have the students stand in a circle. Sing the song to them and demonstrate the movements. Encourage students to mimic your movements and sing along. Repeat the activity at least twice, so that students become familiar with the song and movements.
2. To reinforce the words, have the class pretend to be a cheering squad and chant the words rhythmically as they do the motions.

DEEPER DEPTHS

As you teach the students this song, have them draw pictures for each phrase to help them remember it. Hang or post the pictures on a bulletin board where everyone can see them when you sing the song.

After singing the song through once or twice, repeat the song but leave out a few key words. Then have the students sing (in tempo) the words you've left out. Each time you sing the song, choose a student to lead the class.

Manatees (to the tune of "This Old Man")

Manatees, big and gray, (*spread arms out to sides indicating large size*)
 Eat plants and grasses every day. (*hold both hands up while opening and closing*)
 Swimming slowly through the waterway, (*move arms like oars on a boat*)
 Manatees swim in the bay. (*make a large circle with both arms*)

Manatees, swim real slow, (*move arms like oars on a boat, like manatees swim*)
 Boats must watch out where they go. (*put one hand over eyes to indicate searching*)
 With their agile flippers manatees will steer, (*hold hands out in front*)
 And grab food to pull it near. (*bring hands up to mouth*)

Manatees, must stay warm, (*hug yourself*)
 In the water where they roam. (*move arms like oars on a boat*)
 Take a breath, and surface when they have to breathe, (*breathe in deep and stretch neck upward*)
 Air is what they really need. (*move arms freely through the air*)

Manatees have big tails, (*hold both arms over head and hook thumbs*)
 Move them up and down like whales. (*hook arms together and move arms up and down*)
 Both are mammals just like you and me, (*one hand points to another person, the other hand points to self*)
 Swimming slow and lazily. (*slowly sway back and forth*)