

## Manatee Flipper Activity



### Objective

Understand adaptations that allow manatees to live in their aquatic environment.

### Materials

- Oven mitt, mitten or paper bag
- Fork
- Pencil
- Paper

### Getting Started

Place all materials on a table in front of you

## Manatee Flipper Activity – Page 2

### Step 1

Put your oven mitt, mitten or paper bag over one of your hands. It's okay if it's too big. Flex (close) the hand that is not covered. It's easy to do, right? Now try to flex the hand that is covered. It's not as easy, right? Optional: cover your second hand with an oven mitt, mitten or paper bag, too, for the next step.

### Step 2

Are you ready to use your “flippers?” Try to pick up the fork in front of you with one or two of your covered hands.

Could you pick up the fork? \_\_\_\_\_

Was this easy or difficult to do? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be able to feed yourself this way? \_\_\_\_\_

Based on your observations, how do you think manatees use their flippers to eat? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Step 3

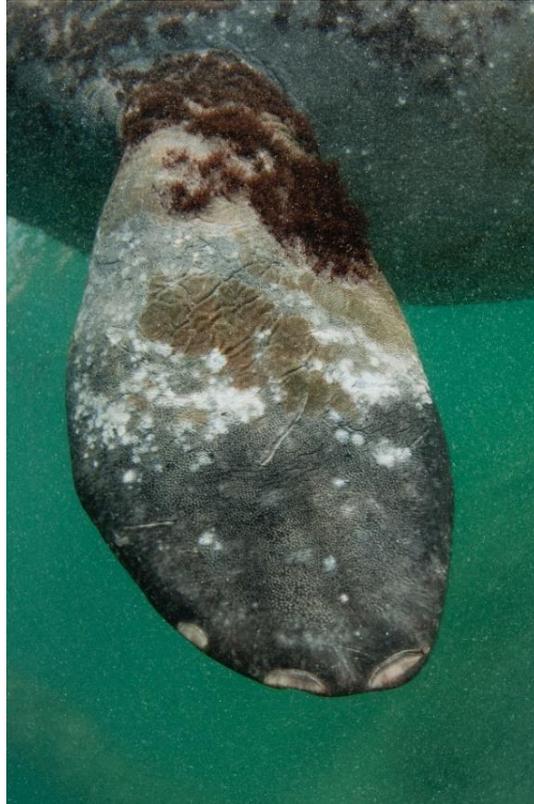
Try to pick up the pencil in front of you.

Is this difficult or easy to do? \_\_\_\_\_

If you can pick up the pencil, try writing your name on the piece of paper with it.

Were you able to write your name? \_\_\_\_\_

## Manatee Flipper Activity – Page 3



### Step 4

Look at your bare hand and compare it to the photo of the manatee flipper you see above.

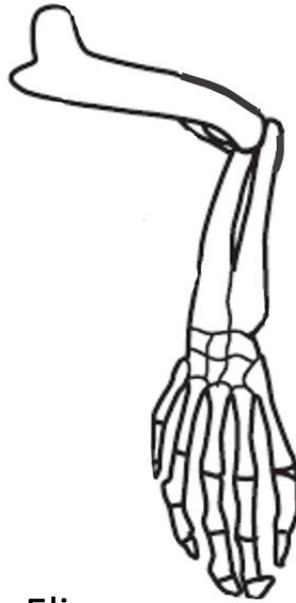
What are some similarities? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

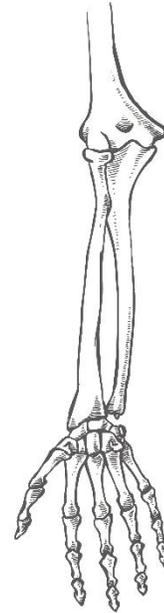
What are some differences? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Manatee Flipper Activity – Page 4



Manatee Flipper



Human Hand

### Step 5

Look at the two images above. These show the bone structures of a manatee flipper and a human hand.

What are some similarities? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are some differences? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If manatees had fingers instead of flippers, how do you think it would affect how they swim? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you swim better if you had flippers? \_\_\_\_\_