

Saplings Colouring Package #15

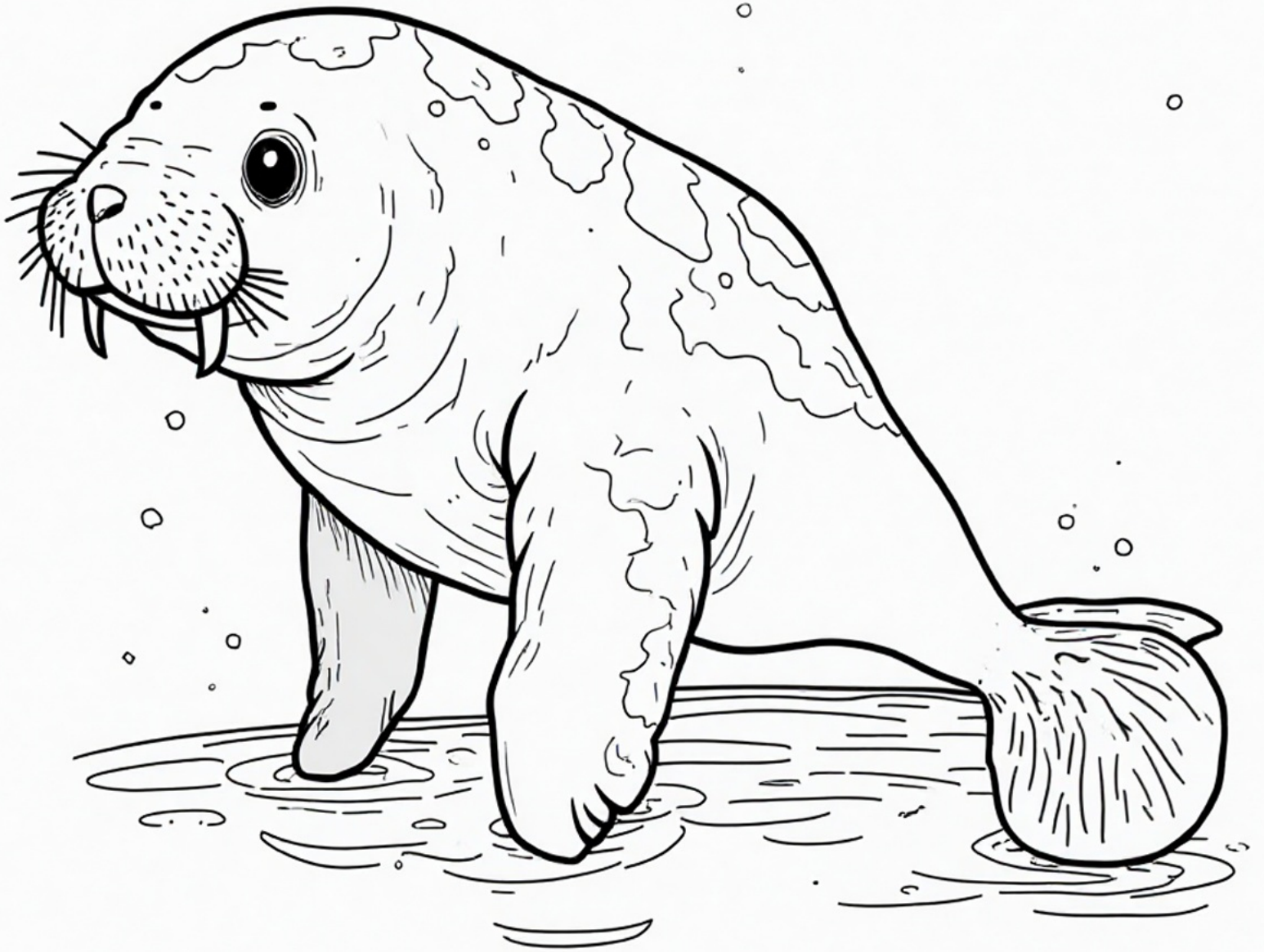
Manatee Appreciation Day
March 25



Planting *Empowerment* *Growth*







Did You Know?

Ten Fun Facts About Manatees

1. Despite looking like seals, manatees are closely related to elephants, sharing a similar heart shape and possessing small, vestigial toenails on their flippers.
2. Manatees constantly replace their teeth throughout their lives. New teeth grow at the back of the mouth and move forward horizontally—like a conveyor belt—to replace old ones.
3. Manatees often use their flippers to walk or move along the sandy bottom of waterways while feeding.
4. Manatees do not have eyelids. Instead of blinking, they have circular muscles that close their eyes like a camera aperture.
5. While manatees have some hair on their faces, fine hairs cover their entire body to help them feel changes in water currents, navigation, and surrounding obstacles.
6. Manatees can remain submerged for up to 20 minutes while sleeping, though they usually surface every few minutes while active.
7. Known as "sea cows," manatees graze on sea grass and mangrove leaves, consuming roughly 10-15% of their body weight in food daily.
8. Manatees only have six neck vertebrae, whereas most mammals have seven, meaning they cannot turn their heads side-to-side and must turn their whole body to look back.
9. Historical sailors, including Christopher Columbus, allegedly mistook manatees for mermaids.
10. Because manatees have very little body fat, they cannot survive in water temperatures below 68 degrees fahrenheit (20 degrees celsius) and will migrate to warmer water.

Now It's Your Turn!
Draw your own manatee here

Kids' drawings that are scanned may be included in a promotional video on Saplings social media. Email drawings to lisa@onethousandtrees.com by the end of the month.