



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Splash of Math K-3 Classroom Activities

Manatee Feeding Time

OBJECTIVE

The student will explore how numbers are put together and taken apart. He or she will experiment with division, connecting what they know to symbolic representations.

ACTION

1. Discuss manatees and what they eat. In this exercise, students will pretend they are animal care specialists at SeaWorld who are responsible for caring for and feeding the manatees.
2. Distribute *Manatee Feeding Time* cut-out on page 7. Explain to pre-readers that their job is to distribute the food to the manatees. They must decide how much of each kind of food each manatee gets for this feeding. Each manatee eats the same amount of food: romaine lettuce, cabbage, carrots, and grapes.
3. Students use scissors to cut apart food items and tape or glue them to the bottom of the manatee drawings.
4. When finished, discuss the exercise with students. Ask them to explain how they decided how many of each food item to give each manatee.
5. (For grades 2-3) Students write number sentences that describe how they divided the food.

ANSWERS

Students should suggest the following number sentences:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| $45 \div 5 = 9$ | (romaine lettuce) |
| $15 \div 5 = 3$ | (cabbage) |
| $10 \div 5 = 2$ | (grapes) |
| $5 \div 5 = 1$ | (carrots) |

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Manatees are large, herbivorous marine mammals that live in fresh water, sea water, and brackish water. In the wild, they eat a wide variety of aquatic and shoreline plants.

The manatees at SeaWorld eat romaine, greenleaf, and iceberg lettuce; spinach; and cabbage. The immense mammals devour nearly 227 kg of greens every day. For special treats, they nibble grapes, carrots, apples, and sweet potatoes.

MATERIALS

For each student:

- copies of *Manatee Feeding Time* cut-out, page 7 (if needed, you can enlarge copies)
- scissors
- tape or glue
- pencils and paper



In the wild, manatees eat a variety of aquatic and shoreline plants. At SeaWorld (above), manatees eat lots of romaine lettuce and other healthy vegetables.



Cut out page

