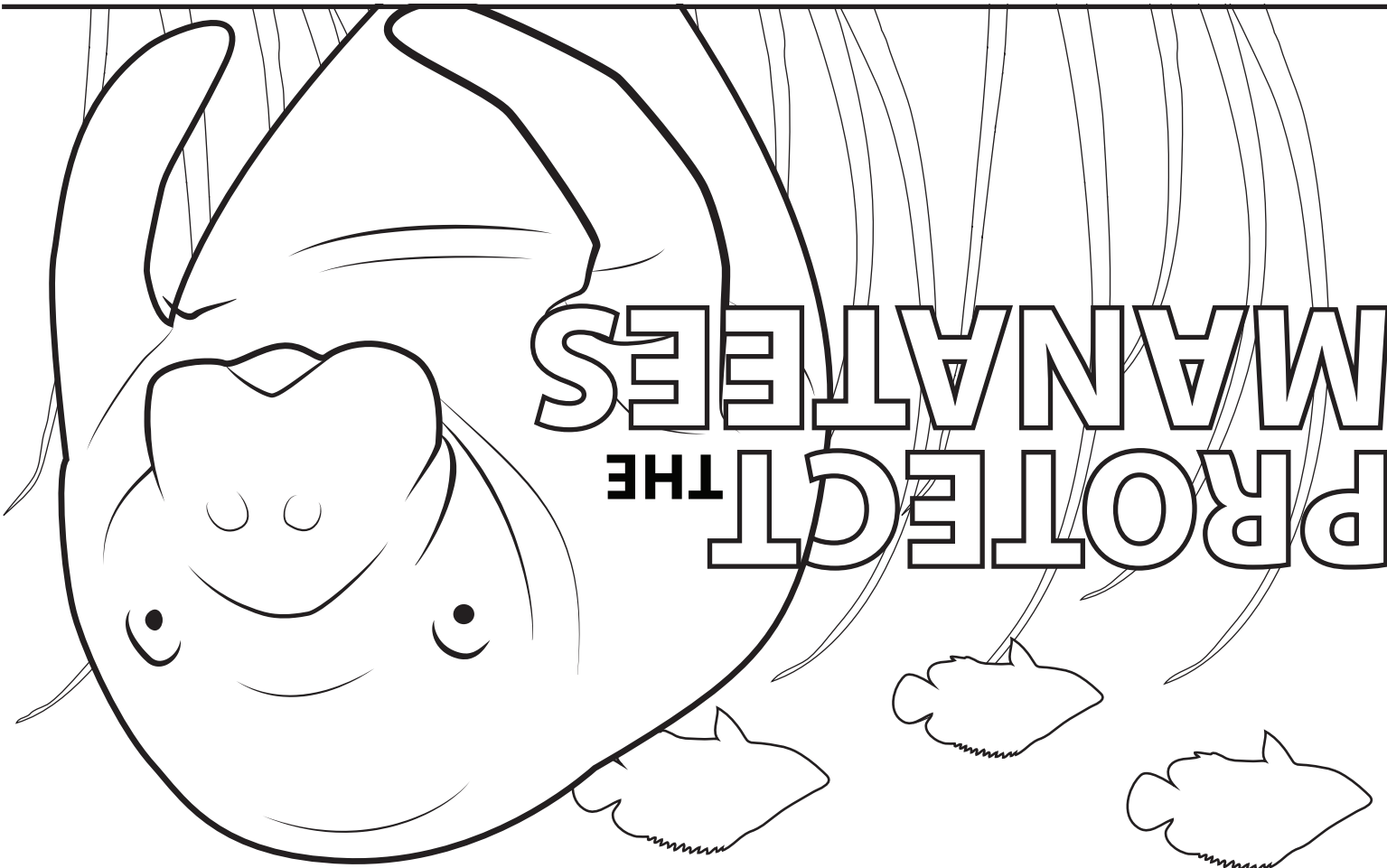
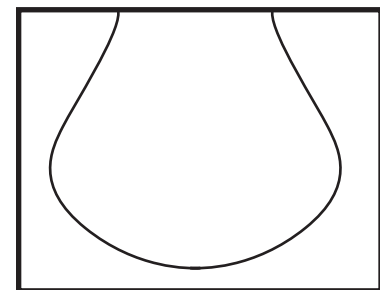


PROTECT THE MANATEES

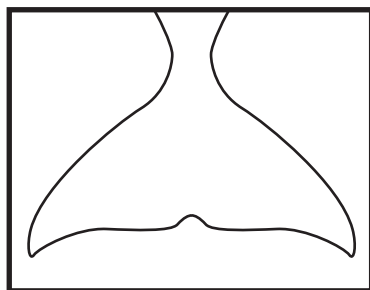


A DUGONG

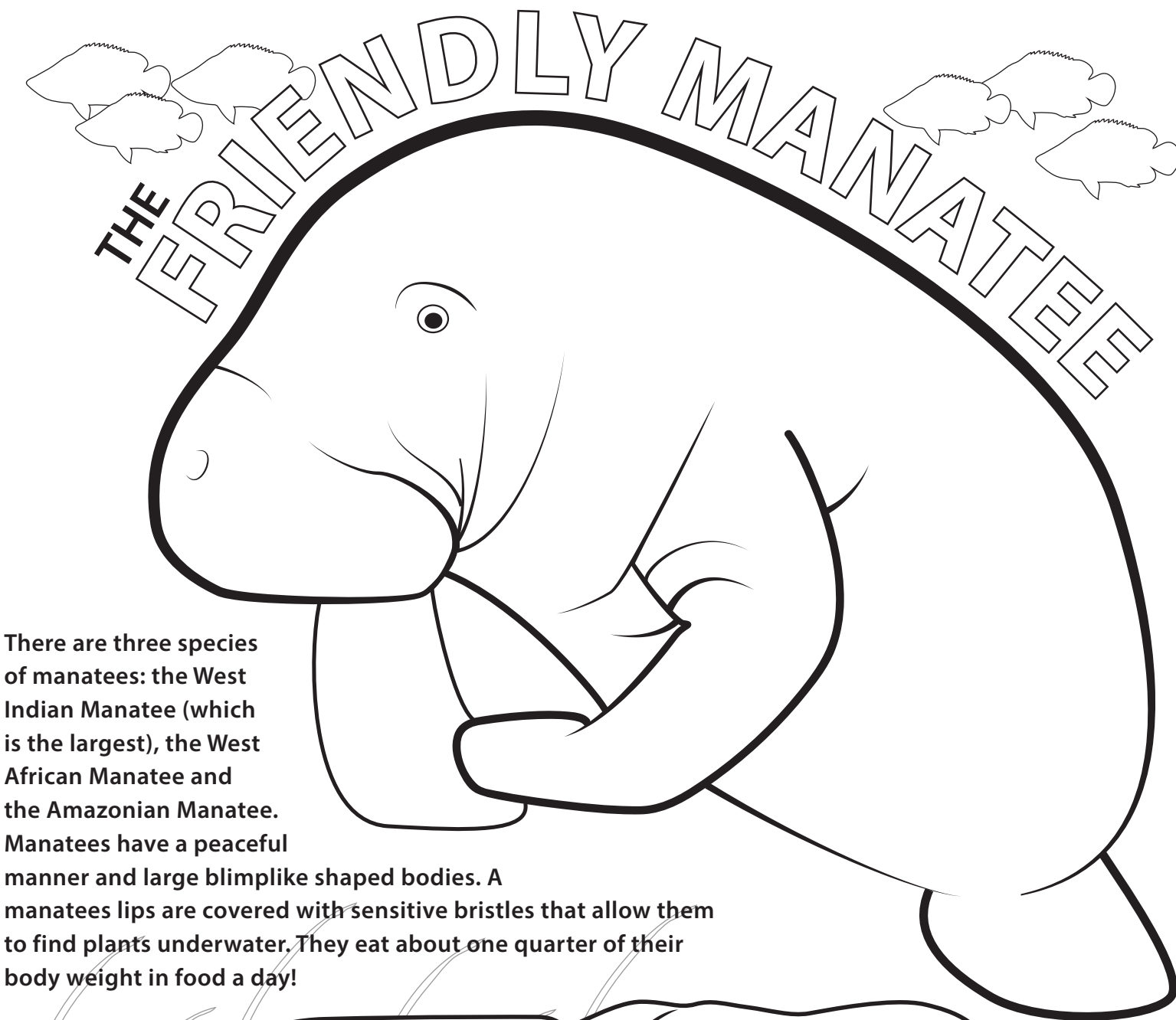
is often mistaken as a manatee but it is its own species! The best way to tell a dugong from a manatee is the tail shape. A dugong has a tail shaped like a whale while manatees have round paddle shaped tails.



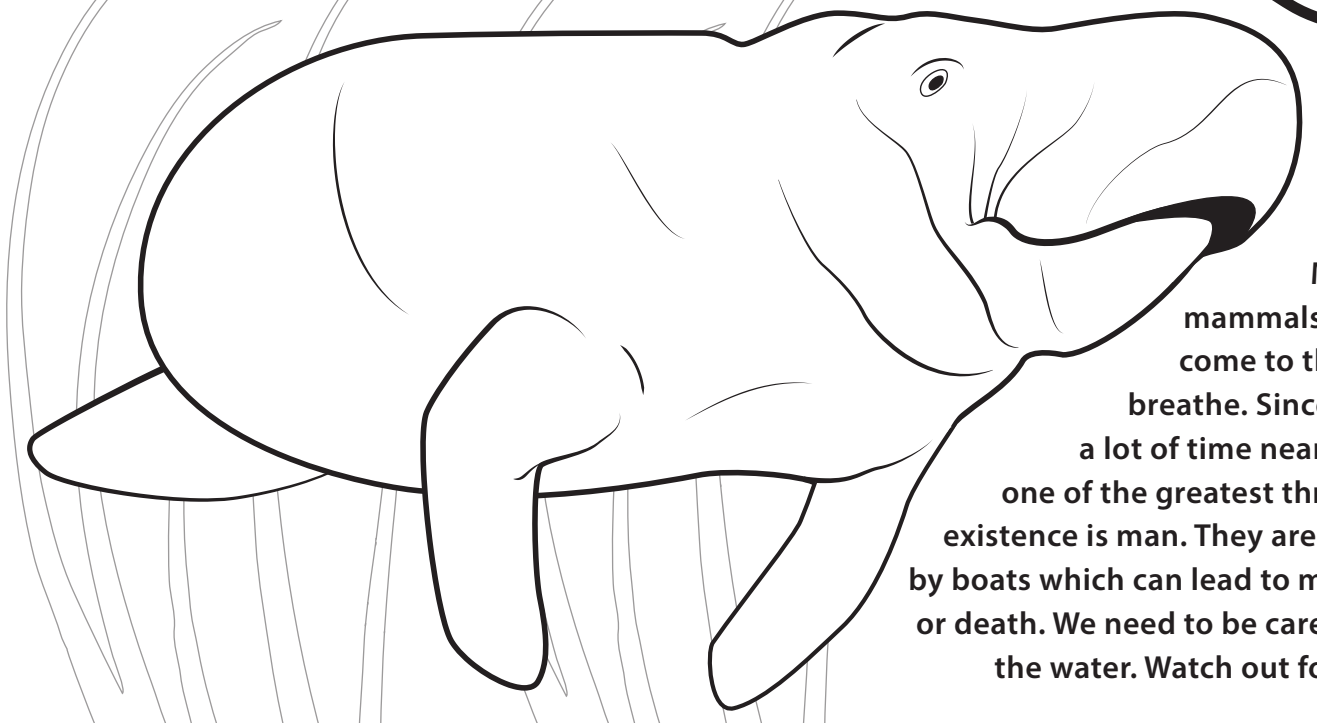
Manatee Tail



Dugong Tail



There are three species of manatees: the West Indian Manatee (which is the largest), the West African Manatee and the Amazonian Manatee. Manatees have a peaceful manner and large blimplike shaped bodies. A manatees lips are covered with sensitive bristles that allow them to find plants underwater. They eat about one quarter of their body weight in food a day!



Manatees are mammals and need to come to the surface to breathe. Since they spend a lot of time near the surface, one of the greatest threats to their existence is man. They are often struck by boats which can lead to major injuries or death. We need to be careful while on the water. Watch out for manatees!



BE CREATIVE! Draw a safe enviroment around the manatee to protect it from boats.



**PROTECT THE
MANATEES**