

Seagrass Search

Follow these directions until you reach the manatee munching on seagrass.

1. Are seagrasses the same as seaweeds? ___ Yes. ___ No.
2. **False.** Seagrasses are important for animals and people.
3. **True.** The beds of seagrass slow the waves and allow the sediments to sink to the lagoon's bottom. Are these thick seagrass beds avoided by juvenile fish and other young aquatic animals? ___ Yes. ___ No.
4. **False.** In shallow water boats can be a problem.
5. **True.** In shallow water the propeller from a boat's motor can dig the seagrasses up and shred them. It is important to avoid shallow seagrass beds. If you cannot avoid them, then drive very slowly and lift the motor. Are seagrass beds important to people? ___ Yes. ___ No.
6. **False.** The seagrass beds provide a nursery for the young animals.
7. **False.** Seagrasses can help keep the water clear.
8. **True.** The seagrass beds provide hiding places for the juveniles from larger animals. The seagrasses also provide food. Many people use the lagoon along with the animals. Can boats be a problem for seagrasses? ___ Yes. ___ No.
9. **True.** Seagrasses are flowering plants unlike seaweeds which are algae. Seagrasses grow in the brackish (salty) waters of the Indian River Lagoon. Rainwater that runs too quickly off of farms, roads, and towns carries a lot of sediments (soil and other particles) into the Indian River Lagoon. These sediments make the water turbid, or cloudy. When the water is turbid, is this good for the seagrass? ___ Yes. ___ No.
10. **False.** If the water is very turbid it can kill the seagrass.
11. **True.** Most of the fish, clams, oysters, and crustaceans that people catch for food need the seagrasses at some time in their lives. Seagrasses also help to keep the Indian River Lagoon clear and healthy.

