

# Lesson 66: Question Guide

## Dugongs

Dugongs are gentle sea creatures. They live in warm coastal waters. Much of the Australian coast is home to dugongs.

Dugongs are large, grey-brown animals with flat tails, flippers and rounded heads. The part of a dugong's face with the nose and mouth is called the snout or muzzle. Near the top of the snout are two nostrils which are used for breathing air. A dugong's body is the perfect shape for gliding slowly through the water.

Dugongs have excellent hearing and can communicate with their offspring by squeaking and making pip-like noises. The offspring stay with their mothers for up to two years until they can survive on their own.

Dugongs have poor eyesight. They have long bristles on their snouts which help dugongs to locate food. These mild-mannered herbivores feed on seagrass which grows from the seabed. Dugongs can hold their breath for 10 minutes at a time to graze.

Dugongs are mammals and are sometimes called sea cows.

### YES OR NO?

1. Do dugongs come onto land?
2. Could dugongs live in Arctic waters?
3. Does a dugong need to put its whole head out of the water to breathe?
4. Can dugongs understand one another?
5. Do toddler aged dugongs need a parent?
6. Can dugongs see well?
7. Are dugongs aggressive?
8. Can dugongs stay underwater for as long as sharks?
9. Do dugongs go in shallow water?
10. Are dugongs similar to seals?

