

Task 2

Analyzing and Integrating Information from Text and Graphs (1 Hour)

Sample Assignment and Student Responses

Directions

On the following pages, you will see a brief reading selection and two graphs. You should assume that the reading and graphs come from different sources and therefore may not be consistent with one another.

Your task is to identify the claims made in the reading selection and to determine **how** relevant data in the graphs support, partially support, and/or contradict claims in the text. In your response, you should describe two or more claims from the reading and explain how specific numerical data in the graphs support, partially support, and/or contradict the claims. At least one claim must be discussed using relevant numerical data from the first graph, and at least one other claim must be discussed using relevant numerical data from the second graph.

Time Allotted

You will have one hour to read the text, examine the graphs, and write your response. You may use your dictionary at any time.

How to Prepare Your Response

You should use your time in this way:

- Identify the claims in the reading selection. (You may take notes and/or mark on the reading if it helps you to identify the claims.)
- Examine the data in the graphs. (You may take notes and/or mark on the graphs.)
- Determine how relevant data in each graph support and/or contradict claims in the reading.
- Plan a response in which you state two or more claims from the reading and explain the relationship between these claims and relevant data in the graphs, using specific numerical data from the graphs. You should use the unlined page to plan your response.
- Write your response on the lined pages.
- Re-read your response to ensure that it will be clear to a reader.

How Your Response will be Evaluated

Your response on the lined pages will be evaluated based on your ability to:

- Identify and state accurately the claims in the reading selection.
- Explain the relationship between these claims and the relevant data in the graphs with accuracy, clarity, and completeness.
- You can earn up to 4 points by identifying two claims and accurately explaining how relevant numerical data from the graphs support, partially support, and/or contradict those claims. One claim must be discussed using relevant data from the first graph and the other claim discussed using relevant data from the second graph. You can earn more points by identifying additional claims and accurately relating them to relevant numerical data from the graphs, or by insightfully discussing an additional aspect of a claim's relationship to specific numerical data from a graph.
- Your notes and marks on the reading or graphs will **NOT** be evaluated. Your work on the unlined page will NOT be evaluated. Only your work on the lined pages of the booklet will be graded, so be sure to write your response on the lined pages of the booklet.

FIGURE 1

The following graph was used in a government presentation.

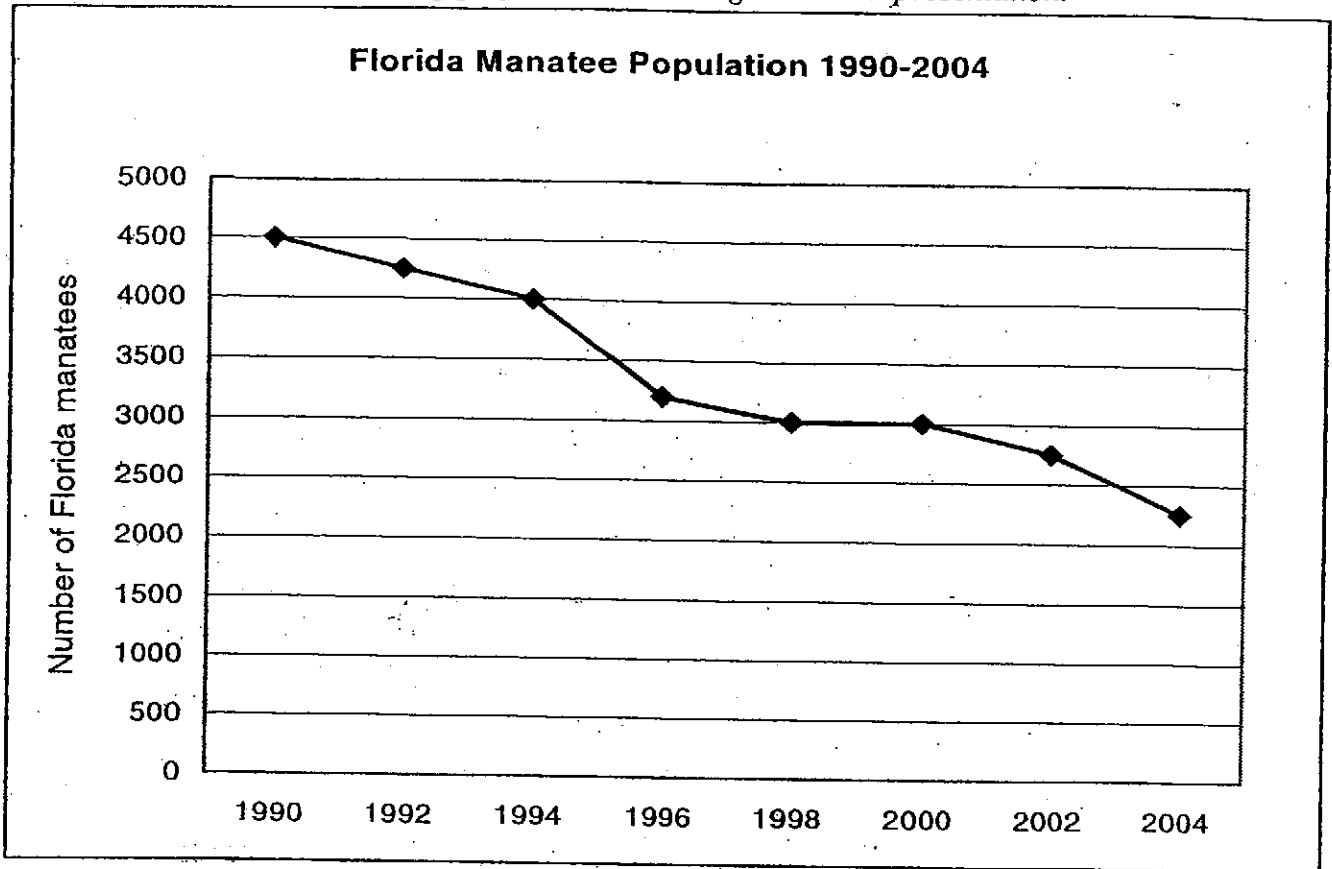
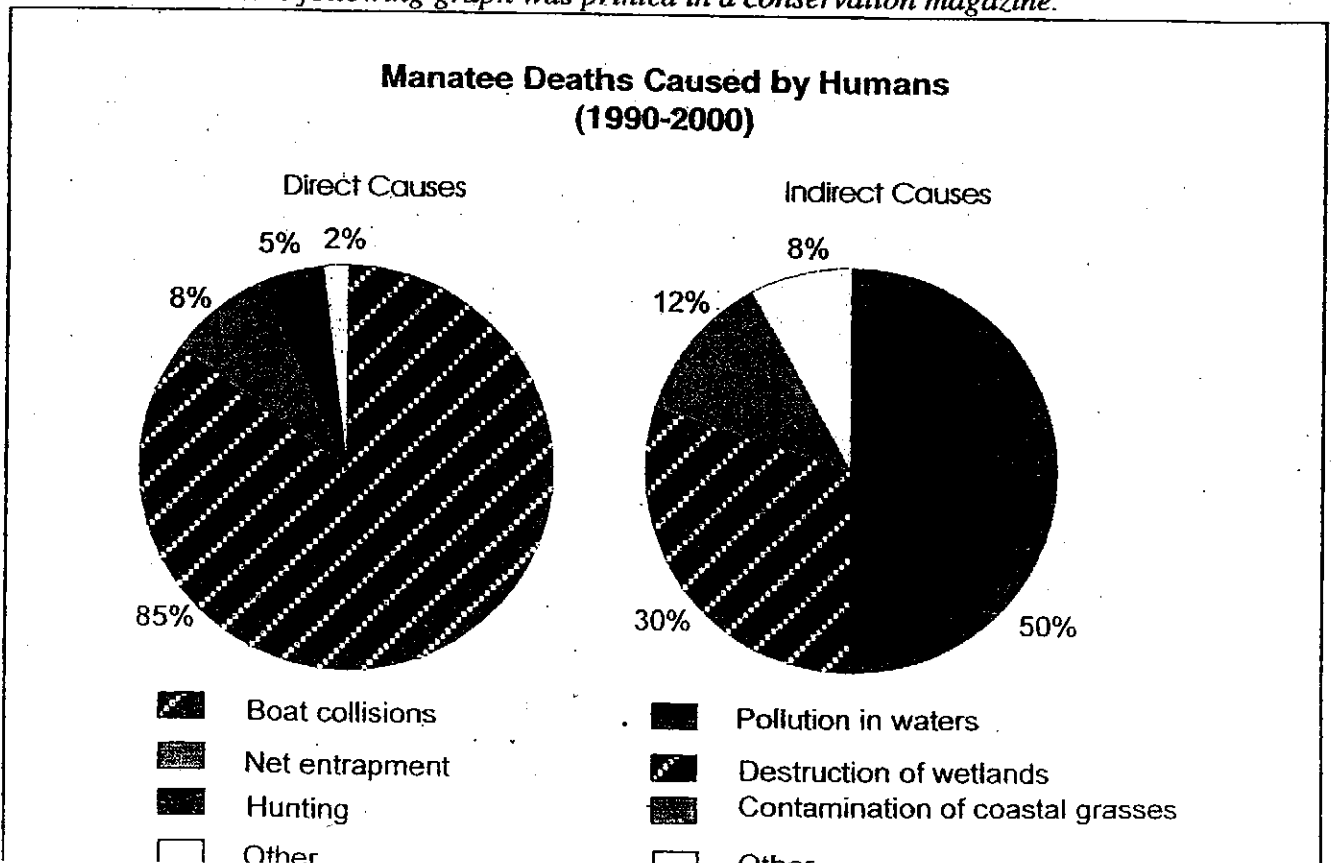


FIGURE 2

The following graph was printed in a conservation magazine.



Florida Manatees

The following was published in a newsletter about the environment.

Manatees, also known as sea cows, can be found on both of Florida's coasts in summertime and in the lower peninsula of the state during colder winter temperatures. In recent years, manatee gathering places such as Crystal River, Florida, have become extremely popular destinations for people who believe it may be their last chance to encounter these huge, slow-moving marine animals.

Currently, manatees are in grave danger of extinction. According to the 2002 census, there are fewer than 2,500 of these creatures left living in Florida waters. Such a low population provides manatees protection under the federal Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. These acts define legal limits of human behavior in relation to manatees. But even legislation could not prevent the biggest drop in manatee population in recent years when, in 1996, 20% of the manatee population died from exposure to red tide, a toxic algae that occurs naturally in the Gulf of Mexico. Manatees have been exposed to red tide many times, but scientists believe that these algae were more concentrated due to increased levels of water pollution, and that pollution may also have reduced the manatees' ability to resist disease.

Despite conservation efforts, human interference is the biggest cause of manatee deaths. More than 90% of direct manatee deaths attributed to humans are caused by collisions with boats. Alert manatees are frightened by the sound of boat motors, but are often unable to reach safety in time. When manatees sleep or maintain a restful state called "torpor," they sometimes float near the water surface where they are in danger of serious injury from power boats. Hunting, wanton killing, and entrapment in fishing nets account for most of the remaining direct-deaths attributed to humans. Indirect human-related deaths result from general destruction of wetlands and coastal grasses, the manatees' main habitat and food source.