

Instructor Sheet
Panther Scavenger Hunt
High School
Lesson 1

Grade Level(s): High School

Duration: 45-75 minutes

Setting: Indoors, use computer for entire activity

Skills: Research, reading, web navigation, interpretation

Subject Areas: Social studies, environmental science, biology, language arts

Overview: Students learn their way around the web site, get exposed to some neat features of Florida Panther Net and learn some interesting facts about the Florida panther's natural history, habitat, threats, and conservation.

Site location(s): You are directed to these on every clue by the **Hints**.

Sunshine State Standards:

SC.D.2.4.1 understands the interconnectedness of the systems on Earth and the quality of life.

SC.F.1.4.2 knows that body structures are uniquely designed and adapted for their function.

SC.F.2.4.3 understands the mechanisms of change (e.g., mutation and natural selection) that lead to adaptations in a species and their ability to survive naturally in changing conditions and to increase species diversity.

SC.G.1.4.1 knows of the great diversity and interdependence of living things.

SC.H.2.4.2 knows that scientists control conditions in order to obtain evidence, but when that is not possible for practical or ethical reasons, they try to observe a wide range of natural occurrences to discern patterns.

SC.H.3.4.3 knows that scientists can bring information, insights, and analytical skills to matters of public concern and help people understand the possible causes and effects of events.

LA.A.2.4.4 locates, gathers, analyzes, and evaluates written information for a variety of purposes, including research projects, real-world tasks, and self-improvement.

SS.B.2.4.2 understands past and present trends in human migration and cultural interaction and their impact on physical and human systems.

The Activity

Pre-planning:

1. Print out the student scavenger hunt sheets and photocopy one for each student (or for every two students).
2. Reserve a computer lab or set up computers in your classroom.

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Procedure:

1. Hand out appropriate level scavenger hunt sheets and have students begin working, either alone or in pairs.
2. Go over some of the interesting items with students.

Assessment:

1 bonus point for solving word puzzle and riddle

- 4 = Scavenger Hunt questions complete and correct
- 3 = Scavenger Hunt questions complete, some incorrect
- 2 = Scavenger Hunt questions half complete
- 1 = Some Scavenger Hunt questions complete
- 0 = Little or no participation

Answer Sheet
Panther Net Scavenger Hunt
Grades 9-12
Lesson 1

Student Directions: This scavenger hunt will acquaint you with some interesting items in the Florida panther handbook. The words in *italics* indicate the sections where you will find the information. Complete the items in any order. When you unscramble the bracketed [] letters at the end of the page, it is a riddle. Can you solve it?

I. *Natural History* (Click on this section of the handbook)

1. The moving map shows that the range of the Florida panther has DECREASED.

Hint: Click on *Range of the Panther*.

2. Currently, the top two causes of panther deaths are road kills and intraspecific AGGRESSION.

Hint: Click on *Life Expectancy and Mortality*.

3. The consumption of wild hog and deer accounts for nearly SEVENTY percent of the panther's diet.

Hint: Click on *Diet*.

II. *Habitat* (Click on this section of the handbook)

4. The greatest concentration of telemetry locations of radiocollared panthers forms the shape of a(n) L, and intersects portions of Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

Hint: Click on *Habitat Review*, see the map.

5. This natural community type is most preferred by Florida panthers. HARDWOOD HAMMOCK.

Hint: Click on *Habitat Use*.

6. The season of the year with south Florida's highest rainfall is SUMMER.

Hint: Click on *Climate*.

7. This endangered animal lives in small family groups called clans. RED-COCKADEE WOODPECKER.

Hint: Click on *Animals and Plants*.

III. *Threats* (Click on this section of the handbook)

8. Mercury is thought to be transferred in the food chain to panthers when they consume R A C C O O N [S] .

Hint: Click on *Mercury*, see diagram.

9. One possible negative effect of inbreeding is abnormal S P [E] R M .

Hint: Click on *Inbreeding*, check photos.

10. The greatest threat to the Florida panther is loss, degradation, and fragmentation of H A [B] I T A T .

Hint: click on *Overview*, see box.

11. According to David Orr, it's not the planet that needs managing, it's H U M A N [S] .

Hint: Click on *Overview*, click on *Thought Question*.

12. This agency manages all of the state parks in Florida.
D E P A R T M E N T [O] F E N V I R O N M E N T [T] A L
P R O T E C T [I] O N .

Hint: Click on *Institutional Constraints*.

13. One example of a public perception is “Cougars are vicious and will attack people.” In fact, the number of people who have been attacked by a Florida panther is Z [E] R O .

Hint: Click on *Public Perceptions*, click on this *Point-counterpoint*.

IV. Conservation (Click on this section of the handbook)

14. In 1898, the Florida panther was a mascot for the R O U G H R I D E R [S] .

Hint: Click on *1800-1899*.

15. In her book, *Everglades: River of Grass*, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas claims that in 1905, a Miami schoolteacher was chased by a panther while carrying a beefsteak in the basket of her B I C [Y] C L E .

Hint: Click on *1900-1939*.

16. In 1937, The Florida legislature passed a bill to eradicate the W H I [T] E - T A [I] L E D [D] E E R , thought to harbor the Texas cattle fever tick.

Hint: Click on *1900-1939*.

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17. In 1967 the Florida panther was federally listed as ENDANGERED.

Hint: Click on *1960-79*.

18. In 1991 the human population in Florida reached TWELVE million.

Hint: Click on *1990-present*.

Directions: List all the bracketed letters you have to work with:

E A Y L W S E E A P S E B

S T O T I E S Y T I D E T

Unscramble the letters above to see the riddle.

P E O P L E A L W A Y S S A Y T H E Y S E E

M E B U T I D O N ' T E X I S T

What am I? (Hint: Click on *Natural History: What's In a Name?*)

A B L A C K P A N T H E R

Student Sheet**Panther Net Scavenger Hunt****Grades 9-12****Lesson 1**

Name _____

Class period _____

Date _____

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1. The moving map shows that the range of the Florida panther has
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Hint: Click on *Range of the Panther*.

2. Currently, the top two causes of panther deaths are road kills and intraspecific []
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Hint: Click on *Life Expectancy and Mortality*.

3. The consumption of wild hog and deer accounts for nearly
 _____ [] percent of the panther's diet.

Hint: Click on *Diet*.

II. *Habitat* (Click on this section of the handbook)

4. The greatest concentration of telemetry locations of radiocollared panthers forms the shape of a(n) [] , and intersects portions of Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

Hint: Click on *Habitat Review* , see the map.

5. This natural community type is most preferred by Florida panthers.
 _____ [] _____ [] _____.

Hint: Click on *Habitat Use*.

6. The season of the year with south Florida's highest rainfall is
 _____ [] _____.

Hint: Click on *Climate*.

II. *Habitat* (continued)

7. This endangered animal lives in small family groups called clans.

_____ [] _____ [] _____
 _____ [] _____.

Hint: Click on *Animals and Plants* .

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III. *Threats* (Click on this section of the handbook)

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Hint: Click on *Mercury*, see diagram.

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Hint: click on *Overview*, see box.

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Hint: Click on *Overview*, click on *Thought Question*.

12. This agency manages all of the state parks in Florida.

_____ [_____] _____ [_____]
_____ [_____]
_____ [_____].

Hint: Click on *Institutional Constraints*.

13. One example of a public perception is "Cougars are vicious and will attack people." In fact, the number of people who have been attacked by a Florida panther is _____ [_____].

Hint: Click on *Public Perceptions*, click on this *Point-counterpoint*

IV. Conservation (Click on this section of the handbook)

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Hint: Click on *1800-1899*.

15. In her book, *Everglades: River of Grass*, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas claims that in 1905, a Miami schoolteacher was chased by a panther while carrying a beefsteak in the basket of her _____ [_____].

Hint: Click on *1900-1939*.

16. In 1937, The Florida legislature passed a bill to eradicate the _____ [_____] _____ [_____], thought to harbor the Texas cattle fever tick.

Hint: Click on *1900-1939*.

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17. In 1967 the Florida panther was federally listed as _____ [_____].

Hint: Click on *1960-79*.

18. In 1991 the human population in Florida reached [] _____ million.
Hint: Click on *1990-present*.

Directions: List all the bracketed letters you have to work with:

Unscramble the letters above to see the riddle.

P _ O _ _ _ _ _ L _ A _ _ _ _ _ Y _ H _ _ _
_ E _ M _ , _ U _ _ _ _ N ' _ _ X _ _ _ _ .

What am I? (Hint: Click on *Natural History: What's In a Name?*)

A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _