

Instructor Sheet
Panther Scavenger Hunt
Lesson 2

Grade Level(s): Middle School

Duration: 45-75 minutes

Setting: Indoors, use computer for entire activity

Skills: Research, reading, web navigation, interpretation

Subject Areas: Social studies, environmental science, life science, 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.2.3.2. knows the positive and negative consequences of human action on the Earth's systems.

SC.F.2.3.2 knows that the variation in each species is due to the exchange and interaction of genetic information as it passed from parent to offspring.

SC.G.1.3.3 understands that the classification of living things is based on a given set of criteria and is a tool for understanding biodiversity and relationships.

LA.A.1.3.4 uses strategies to clarify meaning, such as rereading, note taking, summarizing, outlining, and writing a grade-level appropriate report.

LA.A.2.3.5 locates, organizes, and interprets written information for a variety of purposes, including classroom research, collaborative decision making, and performing a school or real-world task.

SS.B.1.3.1 uses various map forms (including thematic maps) and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report geographic information including patterns of land use, connections between places, and patterns and processes of migration and diffusion.

SS.B.2.3.6 understands the environmental consequences of people changing the physical environment in various world locations.

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.

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

- 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 6-8
Lesson 2

Student Directions: This scavenger hunt will help you explore the panther web site and learn some interesting facts about the Florida panther. The words in *italics* tell you the section where you'll find the answers. You may look for the items in any order. Unscramble the bracketed letters to spell a message at the end of the activity.

Natural History (Click on this section of the handbook)

1. The moving map shows that the range of the Florida panther has DEC[R]EASED.

Hint: Click on *Range of the Panther*.

2. Can you solve the Riddle of what fits in the large shoe box? It's a mountain lion SKELET[O]N.

Hint: Click on *Relation to other Cats*.

3. Currently, the top two causes of panther deaths are road kills and intraspecific AGGRESSI[O]N.

Hint: Click on *Life Expectancy and Mortality*.

4. The Fast Fact says that both male and female panthers travel in areas larger than D[I]SNEY.

Hint: Click on *Home Ranges*.

Habitat (Click on this section of the handbook)

5. If you look on the map of panther use, you can see that most panthers were radio-tracked in south Florida in dense forests that cover an area shaped like the letter [L].

Hint: Click on *Habitat Review*.

6. This natural community type is most preferred by Florida panthers. HARDWOOD HA[M]MOCKS.

Hint: Click on *Habitat Use*.

7. The season of the year with south Florida's highest rainfall is S[U]MMER.

Hint: Click on *Climate*.

8. Because of its red and peeling bark, the gumbo limbo tree is nicknamed the TOURIST T[R]EE.

Hint: Click on *Animals and Plants*, then *Gumbo Limbo*.

9. This bird's whistle sounds like its common name. [C]HUCK WILL'S WIDOW

Hint: Click on *Animals and Plants*.

Lesson 2

Threats (Click on this section of the handbook)

10. 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.

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

Hint: Click on *Inbreeding*, check photos.

12. The greatest threat to the Florida panther is loss of H [A] B I T A T.

Hint: Click on *Overview*, see box.

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*.

Conservation (Click on this section of the handbook)

14. It is estimated that prior to European settlement there were over one T H [O] U S A N D panthers in Florida.

Hint: Click on *1500-1799*.

15. In 1887, the state of Florida gave a \$5.00 B O U N T [Y] for panther scalps.

Hint: Click on *1800-1899*.

16. 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*.

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

E [N] D A N G E R E D.

Hint: Click on *1960-79*.

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

R O O I L M U R C

C P A O O Y C N

Unscramble the letters to spell a scientific name (Hint: Click on *Natural History: Taxonomy*)

P U M A C O N C O L O R C O R Y I

Student Sheet
Panther Net Scavenger Hunt
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Name _____
 Class period _____
 Date _____

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Hint: Click on *Range of the Panther*.

2. Can you solve the Riddle of what fits in the large shoe box? It's a mountain lion
 _ _ _ _ _ [] _ .

Hint: Click on *Relation to other Cats*.

3. Currently, the top two causes of panther deaths are road kills and intraspecific
 _ _ _ _ _ [] _ .

Hint: Click on *Life Expectancy and Mortality*.

4. The Fast Fact says that both male and female panthers travel in areas larger than
 _ [] _ _ _ _ .

Hint: Click on *Home Ranges*.

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 _ _ _ _ _ [] _ _ .

Hint: Click on *Animals and Plants*, then *Gumbo Limbo*.

9. This bird's whistle sounds like its common name.

[] _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

Hint: Click on *Animals and Plants*.

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Hint: Click on *Mercury*, see diagram.

11. One possible negative effect of inbreeding is abnormal ___ [] ___ ___ ___ .

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Hint: Click on *Overview*, see box.

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*

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14. It is estimated that, prior to European settlement, there were over one ___ ___ [] ___ ___ ___ ___ panthers in Florida.

Hint: Click on *1500-1799*.

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Hint: Click on *1900-1939*.

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Hint: Click on *1960-79*.

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

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Unscramble the letters to spell a scientific name (Hint: Click on *Natural History: Taxonomy*)

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___