

## **Instructor Sheet**

### **Solve The Case!**

#### **Lesson 12**

**Grade Level(s):** Elementary, Middle, High

**Duration:** 45-75 minutes

**Setting:** Indoors, use computer for entire activity or use off-line version printed out by teacher

**Skills:** Web navigation, reading, observation, problem solving, research

**Subject Areas:** Environmental science, life science/biology, language arts

**Overview:** These fun, interactive mysteries allow students to learn about panther habits and habits of other species that share the habitat of the Florida panther. Students solve a case to earn their "Panther Detective" certificates. The off-line board game may be used instead.

#### **Site location(s):**

Mysteries:

The Case of the Circling Vultures

The Case of the Cloned Panther

Offline Activities: Panther Mystery Game

#### **Sunshine State Standards:**

Grades 3-5

SC.G.1.2.5 knows that animals eat plants or other animals to acquire the energy they need for survival.

SC.H.1.2.2 knows that a successful method to explore the natural world is to observe and record, and then analyze and communicate the results.

SC.H.3.2.2 knows that data are collected and interpreted in order to explain an event or concept.

SC.H.3.2.4 knows that through the use of science processes and knowledge, people can solve problems, make decisions, and form new ideas.

LA.A.1.2.1 uses a table of contents, index, headings, captions, illustrations, and major words to anticipate or predict content and purpose of a reading section.

Grades 6-8

SC.F.1.3.7 knows that behavior is a response to the environment and influences growth, development, maintenance, and reproduction.

SC.G.1.3.4 knows that the interactions of organisms with each other and with the non-living parts of their environments result in the flow of energy and the cycling of matter through the system.

SC.H.2.3.1 recognizes that patterns exist within and across systems.

LA.A.2.3.1 determines the main idea or essential message in a text and identifies relevant details and facts and patterns of organization.

Grades 9-12

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

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.

The Activity

*Pre-planning:*

1. Reserve a computer lab or set up computers in your classroom  
OR print out multiple sets of off-line activities and have them laminated.
2. If you are using the on-line activity, make sure you are connected to printers or photocopy Panther Detective certificates.

*Procedure:*

1. Assign computers and/or teams.
2. Students work to solve one of the on-line mysteries or play the off-line game with three other players.

*Assessment:*

1 bonus point for:

- \* students observed helping other students to use the computer
- \* students who receive the Panther Detective certificate
- \* students who win the off-line mystery game

4 = Students fully participate in activities

2 = Students partially participate in activities

0 = Little or no participation