

Instructor Sheet
Panther Tales
Lesson 22

Grade Level(s): Elementary, Middle, High

Duration: 60-100 minutes

Setting: Indoors, use computer for research, then do creative writing

Skills: Creative writing, research, public speaking, web navigation

Subject Areas: Visual arts, environmental science, life science, language arts

Overview: Students write a short story, a poem, or local news report based upon a fictional account of their meeting a panther in the wild, or finding panther sign. How would they feel? What would they do? What would the panther do or be doing?

Site location(s):

Natural History:

Hunting Methods

Rearing of Young

Home Ranges

Mating and Reproduction

Coryi Cinema: video of female panther and her two kittens in the wild

Sunshine State Standards:

Grades 3-5

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

SC.H.2.2.1 knows that natural events are often predictable and logical.

LA.B.2.2.5. creates narratives in which ideas, details, and events are in logical order and are relevant to the story line.

Grades 6-8

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

LA.B.2.3.3 selects and uses appropriate formats for writing, including narrative, persuasive, and expository formats, according to the intended audience, purpose, and occasion.

Grades 9-12

SC.H.2.4.1 knows that scientists assume that the universe is a vast system in which basic rules exist that may range from the very simple to the extremely complex, but that scientists operate on the belief that the rules can be discovered by careful, systemic study.

LA.B.2.4.3 writes fluently for a variety of occasions, audiences, and purposes, making appropriate choices regarding style, tone, level of detail, and organization.

The Activity

Pre-planning:

Reserve a computer lab or set up computers in your classroom.

Procedure:

1. Assign computers/teams
2. Explain grading rubric.
3. Have students view some of the information about panther habits at the recommended site locations and take notes.
4. Students should decide if they want to write a story, a new report or a poem about their meeting a panther in the wild. Have students write a rough draft that is about one page long. How would they feel? What would they do? What would the panther do or be doing?
5. Ask students to read the rough draft of a friend and ask the writer several questions about the situation that are not currently explained.
6. Have the student continue work on the draft, keeping the questions in mind.

Assessment:

1 bonus point for students who orally share their writings with the class

4 = Students write a creative story, poem, or news report about their fictional meeting with a panther in the wild that includes many facts about the panther

3 = Students write a creative story, poem, or news report about their fictional meeting with a panther in the wild

2 = Students begin a creative story, poem, or news report about their fictional meeting with a panther in the wild

0 = Little or no participation