FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY
WINGS OF HOPE

Environmental Education Program
www.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope

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Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt
Fun & Educational Activities for Students & their Families

*Wings of Hope*’s goal is to engage elementary students and families with fun and educational activities every day amid challenging times in the United States and across the globe.

**Directions:** Print the activity pages or simply record responses on notebook paper. To virtually connect with family members, like your grandparents, share the *Wings of Hope* webpage, [www.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope](http://www.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope), and have them do these activities as well to let you know what they found on these Florida panther websites through phone calls, e-mails, text messages, photos or FaceTime videos.

**Prior to physically visiting any location featured in these activities, check updated hours of operation and Covid19 safety guidelines.**

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Florida Panther Facts Review

The information below is a review for the Panther Posse students. Students learned about these facts during their field trip to FGCU.

**Directions:** Read through the facts below. This knowledge will be helpful as you learn more about the Florida panther by completing the Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt activities.

- **Population:** Approximately 120 to 230 adult Florida panthers left in the natural world
- **Status:** Endangered species
- **Scientific name:** *Puma concolor coryi*
  - Genus: *Puma* - means large cat, such as a panther, mountain lion or cougar
  - Species: *concolor* - means one color
  - Subspecies: *coryi* - named for the naturalist, Charles Barney Cory, who was the first person to document and describe the Florida panther in 1896
- **Color of the Florida panther**
  - 2/3rds of the body is tan
  - Body parts that are white: tummy, inside of the legs, parts of the face
  - Body parts that are black: paw pads, parts of the face, tip of the tail
- **There are no black panthers on Earth, only black leopards and black jaguars**
- **No pink panthers**
- **Adult panthers’ eye color is amber, greenish-yellow**
- **Adult panthers have 30 teeth**
- **Life span for most panthers in the wild is 10-12 years**
- **Weight:** males weigh 130-160 pounds and females weigh 70-100 pounds
- **Length (tip of the nose to the tip of the tail):** males are 6-8 feet and females are 5-7 feet
- **Why are they so endangered? Today’s top threats are:**
  - Killed by vehicles
  - A disease called Feline Leukemia
  - Territory (male panthers kill other male panthers)
    - Males need 200 square miles for their territory = 97,000 football fields
  - Habitat loss
- **Hunting is not a threat today because it is illegal to hunt Florida panthers due to their endangered species status**
Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Go to the different Florida panther websites listed throughout the activity pages. With your family, try to find the cool panther information.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/panther/

1. About Panthers → Description and Range
   There are two wildcats that live in Florida. One is the Florida panther. What is the other wildcat? ________________

2. About Panthers → Description and Range → Scientific Classification
   The Florida panther is classified as:
   - Kingdom ______________
   - Phylum ________________
   - Subphylum ____________
   - Class _________________
   - Order ________________
   - Family ________________
   - Subfamily ______________
   - Genus __________________
   - Species __________________
   - Subspecies ______________

3. About Panthers → Tracks and Other Signs → Tracks
   How many toes does a panther have? _______
   Are their claws retractable? □ Yes □ No

4. About Panthers → Tracks and Other Signs → Tracks
   When the Florida panther kitten leaves the den at 6-8 weeks with their mother, are their paws larger than an adult bobcat’s paws? □ Yes □ No

5. About Panthers → Tracks and Other Signs → Kills, Caches, Drag Marks
   What is a Cache?
   __________________________________________________________________________________
6. About Panthers → Tracks and Other Signs → Scratches
   How high up are Florida panther scratches on trees? __________ feet
   Can you convert these heights from feet to inches? _______________ inches

7. About Panthers → Tracks and Other Signs → Scratches
   What is the difference between Florida panther scratches on trees and Florida black bear scratches on trees?
   Florida panther scratches: __________________________________________________________
   Florida black bear scratches: ______________________________________________________

8. About Panthers → Biology → Hunting Methods
   When are panthers actively hunting?
   _______________________ and _______________________

9. About Panthers → Biology → Hunting Methods
   How far can a panther leap to catch their prey?
   __________ feet
   Now you give it a try! How many feet did you leap? __________ feet

10. About Panthers → Biology → Diet
    Look at the Florida panther diet pie chart.
    What percent are white-tailed deer? __________% 
    What percent are Virginia opossums? __________% 
    What percent are domestic cats? __________% 
    What percent are raccoons? __________% 

Photo taken by FWC Panther Biologist
Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt

*Panther Pulse* by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/panther/pulse/

11. Panther Pulse

Complete the chart to record and monitor Florida panther population data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months in 2020</th>
<th>Dates for new litters</th>
<th>Number of male &amp; female kittens</th>
<th>Dates for panther deaths</th>
<th>Age &amp; male or female</th>
<th>Cause of death</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>
 Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt

*Capturing a Florida Panther* by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

[https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/panther/capture/](https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/panther/capture/)

12. **Attention Florida Panther Posse!** At the program you watched a shortened version of this video. Watch the video again because there are some great kitten photos and new footage you did not see while at the program.

Photo of “Wings of Hope” Director Mrs. Ricky Pires and FWC Panther Biologist Mark Lotz

**Congratulations on Completing the FWC Website Scavenger Hunt!**

Move on to FWF to see what other Florida panther facts you can find!!
Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt

1. Description
   The Florida panther was one of the first animals listed under the Endangered Species Act and is still one of the most endangered mammals of the world. □ True □ False

2. Habitat and Range
   List 3 habitats that Florida panthers use
   • __________________________
   • __________________________
   • __________________________

3. Behavior
   How many miles does a Florida panther travel each day? ________ miles
   How fast can a panther run? _____ miles per hour (mph)
   Activity - Have a family member drive that fast to check out how fast panthers can run.

4. Behavior → Panther Vocalizations
   Watch the video by Dr. Dan Smith, Biologist at the University of Central Florida.
   Describe how you think the mother panther and her kittens sound.
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

5. Life History
   How many panther kittens may be in a litter? ____________

Fantastic Job on Completing the FWF Website Scavenger Hunt!

Next stop is Naples Zoo to find more facts!!
Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt

Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens
https://www.napleszoo.org/athena

1. Athena’s Story
   When and where did Athena’s story begin? ________________________________

2. Athena’s Story
   Why was the decision made to remove Athena from the wild?
   A. Athena was found in an abandoned den
   B. Athena could not be reunited with her family
   C. Athena was too young to survive in the wild on her own
   D. All of the above

3. Athena’s Story
   When was Athena’s debut to Zoo guests? ________________________________

4. Athena’s Story
   Study the “Then” and “Now” pictures of Athena. Compare how Athena looked “Then” as a kitten, to how she looks “Now” as an adult panther.
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

5. Athena’s Story
   Caring for Athena at Naples Zoo is a collaboration with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
   □ True □ False

6. Athena’s Story
   What can Florida drivers purchase to help our state animal, the Florida panther?
   A. Gasoline       B. Motor oil       C. Florida panther license plate       D. Snacks

Way to Go on Finishing Naples Zoo Website Scavenger Hunt!

New challenge is Florida Panther Nation Wildlife Refuge!!
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Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Florida_Panther/wildlife_and_habitat/

1. **Wildlife and Habitat**
   Under the Florida panther picture is a quote from a US President. Which President made that quote? ____________________________________________

2. **Wildlife and Habitat → Mammals**
   Each month, how many panthers den, hunt and roam within the wildlife refuge?
   A. 1-2    B. 5-11    C. 15-30    D. 50-100

3. **Wildlife and Habitat → Mammals**
   Altogether, about 33 other mammal species live within the wildlife refuge. List 5 or more of these mammal species.
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. **Wildlife and Habitat → Mammals → Florida Panther → Learn More**
   What year did the Department of Interior list the Florida panther as an endangered subspecies?

5. **Wildlife and Habitat → Mammals → Florida Panther → Learn More**
   The Service will consider reclassifying the panther from 'endangered' to 'threatened' when there are 3 populations of 240 panthers.  □True  □False

6. **Wildlife and Habitat → Mammals → Florida Panther → Learn More**
   In 2013, the US Fish and Wildlife Service formed what kind of group?
   A. Florida Panther Soccer Team    B. Florida Panther Recovery Implementation Team
   C. Florida Panther Photo Club    D. Florida Panther Hiking Adventure

Awesome Work on Completing Florida Panther NWR Website!
Last scavenger hunt is at CREW!!
Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt

CREW Land & Water Trust
https://crewtrust.org/

1. Visit CREW
   Look at the map’s title “CREW Trails.”
   What do the letters for CREW stand for?
   C - __________________________
   R - __________________________
   E - __________________________
   W - __________________________

2. Visit CREW
   Look at the map’s legend. What is the name of the trail labeled A?
   ______________________________________________________

3. Visit CREW
   Look at the roads on the map. What is the name of the road that has a picture of a Florida panther on it?
   A. Interstate 75   B. Bonita Beach Rd.   C. Corkscrew Rd.   D. Immokalee Rd.

4. About → History
   The CREW project began in 1989 after several years of drought caused wells to go dry in southern Lee County.  □ True  □ False

5. About → History
   Why is protecting CREW lands important for the endangered Florida panther, other wildlife, and people?
   A. Recharges the aquifer with drinking water for people
   B. Provides land where vegetation can filter pollutants out of the water before reaching the Gulf of Mexico
   C. Makes habitat for wildlife and recreation lands for the public
   D. All of the above

YES!! You Finished the Entire Scavenger Hunt!!!
Answer Key, Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt

**Pages 3-5, FWC**

1. Bobcat
2. **Scientific Name**
   - Kingdom – Animalia
   - Phylum – Chordata
   - Subphylum – Vertebrata
   - Class – Mammalia
   - Order – Carnivora
   - Family – Felidae
   - Subfamily – Felinae
   - Genus – Puma
   - Species – concolor
   - Subspecies - coryi
3. 4 toes, Yes
4. Yes
5. When a panther covers its prey with leaves and other ground items.
6. 4-6 feet, 48-72 inches
7. Panther scratches are thin. Bear scratches are broad, 3-4 times wider than panther scratches.
8. dawn and dusk
9. leap 15 feet, Answers will vary
10. white-tailed deer 22% , Virginia opossum 5%, domestic cats 5%, raccoons 24%
11. & 12. Answers will vary

**Page 7, FWF**

1. True
2. cypress forests, swamps, freshwater marshes, hardwood hammocks, saw palmetto woodlands and pine flatwoods
3. Travel 20 miles per day. Run up to 35 miles per hour.
4. Answers may vary
5. 1-4 kittens in a litter

**Page 8, Naples Zoo**

1. June 2017, Big Cypress National Preserve
2. D. All of the above
3. December 2017
4. Answers may vary
5. True
6. C. Florida panther license plate
Answer Key, Panther Websites Scavenger Hunt

Page 9, USFWS
1. Theodore Roosevelt
2. B. 5-11
3. Florida panther, Florida black bear, bobcat, white-tailed deer, Big Cypress fox squirrels, raccoons, cottontail and marsh rabbits, nine-banded armadillos, and coyotes
4. A. 1967
5. True
6. B. Florida Panther Recovery Implementation Team

Page 10, CREW
1. C – Corkscrew
   R – Regional
   E – Ecosystem
   W – Watershed
2. CREW Corkscrew Marsh Trails
3. C. Corkscrew Rd.
4. True
5. D. All of the above