

Panther Quest

You and your whole family are invited to participate in Florida Wildlife Federation's virtual panther quest! Complete the quest so you can better help advocate for conserving the endangered Florida panther. Follow the directions to begin your quest:

The **Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)** is a Florida government agency that manages and regulates the state's fish and wildlife resources and enforces related wildlife laws. Check out the FWC panther webpage to begin your panther quest:

<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/panther/>

1. How many adult Florida panthers are estimated to be left in the wild? _____
2. The Florida panther is not the only wild cat that is native to Florida. What is the other native Florida cat? _____
3. Scientists classify plants and animals into a series of categories beginning with the broadest and ending with the most specific. What are the Genus, species, and subspecies names for the Florida panther?
Genus: _____
Species: _____
Subspecies: _____
4. Panthers are carnivores and are most active at the same time of day as their prey. What times of day are panthers most active? _____ and _____
5. Nearly 70% of a panthers diet comes from _____, _____, and _____.
6. How long can panthers live in the wild? _____
7. What are the two most common causes of panther deaths? _____ and _____.
8. Most panthers killed in vehicle collisions are less than _____ years old.
9. Before giving birth, female panthers choose a den site. This is usually in a _____.
10. Name three things to do if you encounter a panther.

Now that we have some basic facts about the Florida panther, head over the **United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) panther page** to learn a bit more about the status of this endangered species! www.fws.gov/southeast/wildlife/mammals/florida-panther

1. What year was the panther listed as an endangered species with the Department of the Interior?

2. According to the USFWS Recovery Plan for the panther, when would the USFWS consider delisting the panther? _____

3. Adult Florida panthers are unspotted and typically tan in color. What color are kittens when they are born? _____
4. What type of habitat provides the most important feeding, resting, and denning cover for panthers?
5. Today the Florida panthers is limited to a single breeding population in south Florida. This represents less than ____% of its historical range.
6. The panther continues to face numerous threats due to _____ and _____ in panther habitat.
7. In 1995, a genetic restoration plan was implemented with the release of eight female pumas from Texas into South Florida. Why were pumas from Texas used?
8. When did the FWC panther team document a Florida panther north of the Caloosahatchee River? This is the first evidence of a wild female Florida panther north of the river since 1973.
9. Male panthers do travel outside of the breeding range and have been documented as far north as _____.
10. How can you help protect the panther?

You have one more webpage to visit to complete to become an expert on the Florida panther! Head to the **Florida Wildlife Federation's webpage** to wrap up your quest!

www.fwfonline.org/site/education/panther-facts

1. The Florida panther is a habitat generalist. This means they utilize both _____ and _____.
2. A female panther's habitat range is usually between _____ and _____ square miles. But male panthers can require up to _____ square miles.
3. A male panther's habitat range is the equivalent to _____ football fields.
4. Female panthers reach sexual maturity between _____ and _____ years old. How long is the gestation period?
5. How does a panther hunt and kill its prey?
6. What does a panther sound like? Watch the video on the FWF Panther Facts page and describe what you hear!

Check your answers on the Answer Key page.

Congratulations!

You've completed your quest and are officially a Florida panther conservation advocate!