

FLORIDA PANTHERS

SIXTH GRADE:

1. The Florida Panther is a subspecies of what cat?
 - a. Cougar
 - b. Lion
 - c. Tiger
 - d. Bobcat

Answer: a

2. How has human behavior impacted the Florida Panther?

Answer: The Panther population has decreased so much that it is described as one of the most rare and endangered mammals in the world. An estimated 80-100 remain in Florida. In addition to illegal hunting, habitat loss and being hit by cars they are also impacted by mercury contamination through the aquatic food chain.

SEVENTH GRADE:

1. Why did wildlife managers introduce female Texas Cougars into the Florida Panther population?

Answer: To try and correct genetic problems related to inbreeding.

2. What are some things you can do to help save the Florida Panther?

Answer: Do a school project to become informed and share what you learn with others.

EIGHTH GRADE:

1. What behavioral adaptations relative to their diet do Florida Panthers display?

Answer: They hunt during the cooler hours of the day at dusk and dawn. They travel distances to find food. They can run up to 35 mph for short distances, creep up as close to their prey as possible, launch a short spring attack and ambush the prey. They will travel to areas of woodland fires where they might find prey that's attracted to new vegetation.

2. What structural adaptations aid in the Panthers survival?

Answer: Kittens can sustain their energy and body temperature for 2 days while the mother is away hunting for food. Adult panthers are large and built to hunt with powerful jaws, large teeth and claws.