



Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

Sample Test:  
Florida Panther

Reading Book

## Helpful Tips

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This symbol is next to questions that require a short written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 2 points. A partial answer is worth 1 point.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This symbol is next to questions that require a longer written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 4 points. A partial answer is worth 1, 2, or 3 points.

Answers to the short- and long-answer questions can receive full or partial credit. You should try to answer these questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer. If you get a portion of the answer correct, you will get a portion of the points.

- Read the question carefully.
- If you do not understand the question, go back and review the passage.
- Write your answer on the lines provided in the Answer Book.
- Remember that it is necessary to include details and information from the passage in your answer.
- Be sure to answer every part of the questions.
- Use clear, concise language to explain your answer.
- Reread the answer to make sure it says what you want it to say.

These practice tests were produced by the University of Florida and the Florida Center for Instructional Technology and have not been validated by the Florida Department of Education.

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## The Florida Panther

Information from the Florida Panther Net web site  
<http://www.panther.state.fl.us/>  
Florida panther paw prints with permission of Patty Cramer

Florida school children chose the panther as the state animal. They chose the panther over the manatee, the alligator, and the key deer.

### What is the Florida panther?

Florida panthers are a type of cougar or mountain lion. The Florida panther is the only group of mountain lions east of the Mississippi River. The panther is a symbol of beauty, wilderness, and survival.

### Is the Florida panther endangered?

In 1967 the federal government listed the Florida panther as endangered. Endangered means that without human help an animal or plant will become extinct. Extinct means that the animal or plant will never again exist on earth.

### What do Florida panthers look like?

Panthers are about 10 times as big as a housecat. Like all cats they have very sharp claws and teeth. They need sharp claws and teeth to kill and eat their food. Florida panthers are tawny (the same color as deer). The fur on their bellies and the inside of their legs is lighter, and the fur on their backs, tails, and legs is darker.

### These are Florida panther paw prints:



**Front Paw**

#### Front paw

Length: 3 inches  
Width: 3.5 inches



**Back Paw**

#### Hind paw

Length: 3 inches  
Width: 3 inches

### What do Florida panthers eat?

Panthers only eat meat. Panthers eat deer, wild hogs, raccoons, armadillos, and rabbits. Sometimes they eat birds and even alligators. No panther has ever even attacked a person.

**What kinds of families do panthers have?**

Panther females and kittens make up the panther family. The father does not help take care of the kittens. Panthers may have from 1 to 4 kittens. Panthers leave their mothers when they are about 2 years old. Growing up is harder for boy panthers than girl panthers. Girls often stay near their mother. Boys must try to find a home range of their own.

**Where do Florida panthers live?**

Panthers need lots of land. The area where a panther hunts is its home range. They prefer hardwood hammocks and pine forest with lots of palmettos for their range. Panthers usually rest during the day hidden in thickets of palmetto. At dusk they begin to travel and hunt.

Unless you are very lucky, you will probably never see a panther in the wild. But you can help them by protecting the lands they need to survive. You can support efforts to recover the panther from being endangered.



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# Answer Book

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_ / 16

Read the article “Florida Panther.” Now answer Numbers 1 through 8. Base your answers on the article.

**1** Why did the author write this article?

- (A) to explain why the panther is better than the mountain lion
- (B) to explain why panthers hunt for their food
- (C) to tell the reader about the Florida panther
- (D) to tell the reader about endangered animals

**2** Why is the panther a symbol of beauty, wilderness, and survival? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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3

Why is growing up harder for boy panthers than girl panthers?

- A girls must find their own home range
- B boys must find their own home range
- C boys stay near their mothers
- D boys stay near their fathers

4

What does the Florida Panther look like? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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5

According to the article, how is the panther like a housecat?

- A sharp claws and teeth
- B tawny color and food
- C same size
- D same paw prints

6

Why will you probably never see a panther in the wild? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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7 How are Florida panthers DIFFERENT from other mountain lions?

- (A) Florida panthers are not cats
- (B) Florida panthers are not endangered
- (C) Florida panthers live west of the Mississippi River
- (D) Florida panthers live east of the Mississippi River

8 Why is the Florida panther listed as endangered? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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Sample Test:  
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Answer Key

# Answer Key: Florida Panther

This book contains answers and explanations for the Florida Panther Sample Test questions. Multiple-choice items are scored by awarding one point for each correct answer. Answers to short-response and extended-response “Read, Think, Explain” questions are scored with two-point and four-point rubrics respectively. For short- and extended-response questions, there is often more than one acceptable response. Partial credit is given for accurate but incomplete answers. The overall characteristics of top-score and partial-credit responses for the “Read, Think, Explain” questions are given in the general two-point and four-point rubrics below.

Sample top-score responses are provided for each “Read, Think, Explain” question.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

## Rubric for Short-Response Questions

- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a complete understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples may be incomplete or omitted.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and /or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

### Rubric for Extended-Response Questions

- 4 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a thorough understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information is clearly text-based.
- 3 Points:** The response indicates that the student has an understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate and fulfills all the requirements of the task, but the required support and/or details are not complete or clearly text-based.
- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples and requirements of the task may be incomplete or omitted.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has very limited understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The response is incomplete, may exhibit many flaws, and may not address all requirements of the task.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

1. C

2. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

The panther is the state animal. He is furry like a housecat. The panther catches the food he eats in order to survive. He is endangered.

or

He is a type of mountain lion. He is a tawny color. The panther lives in the wild. A few still exist.

3. B

4. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

They are 10 times bigger than a housecat. They have sharp claws and teeth. They are the same color (tawny) as a deer. The fur on their bellies and inside legs is lighter, and the fur on their backs, tails, and legs is darker. Also, their front paw is wider than their hind paw.

5. A

6. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Because the panther is endangered. There are not many left around. They need lots of land with pines and palmettos that are easy to hide in. Panthers rest during the day and come out at night.

7. D

8. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Because without people's help the Florida panther will not exist on Earth anymore. They need lots of wild land to live on, and they need other wild animals for food.