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# FLORIDA PANTHER



# *Getting to know...*

## *The Florida Panther*

Region & Habitat	Southern Florida; pinelands, swamp forests, dense understory
Classification	Mammal
Size	Males- up to 7 feet long, 160 pounds
Nocturnal or Diurnal	Nocturnal
Conservation Status	Endangered; just over 200 in the wild
Average Lifespan	20 years
Gestational Period	92 to 96 days, 1-4 per litter
Diet	Carnivore
Scientific name	<i>Puma concolor coryi</i>
Fun Fact	Although they can't roar, the Florida panther can purr, hiss, snarl, growl, or yowl to communicate

A subspecies of the mountain lion, the Florida panther is a gorgeous big cat featuring tan fur with a lighter belly and chest and black markings at the tip of the tail and ears. Territorial and solitary, they claim their area with pheromones or physical signs like claw marks. Panther kittens are born in litters of up to 4 and generally stay with the mother around a year and a half before heading out on their own.

The Florida panther was one of the first species added to the U.S. endangered species list in 1973, when their numbers dropped to less than 3 dozen in the wild due to hunting. Although their numbers have rebounded some, their existence continues to be threatened by habitat loss, vehicle strikes, low genetic diversity, diseases like feline leukemia, and the lack of reintroduction to new areas due to misunderstanding and fear. Habitat expansion and protection is their key to survival, and many efforts are under way to establish connections to existing protected lands, expanding the overall reach and variety of habitat, and giving these big cats hope for a brighter future.

# WORD SEARCH

L	G	X	O	Z	M	W	R	N	J	S	K	N	O	V	S	O	G
R	C	T	Y	V	T	A	Y	R	J	W	H	C	C	Y	J	A	C
A	A	A	F	P	P	Q	M	T	H	Y	C	P	O	Z	X	J	X
N	U	C	R	G	J	L	P	M	D	X	U	Z	Y	Y	K	R	P
S	M	D	O	N	A	C	A	U	A	U	L	I	G	V	S	W	F
T	C	Z	P	J	I	D	B	M	M	L	L	O	L	P	W	Z	S
Q	P	T	O	U	I	V	W	F	E	A	M	T	P	I	A	A	E
L	B	L	K	R	N	R	O	W	N	Z	W	V	Q	Y	M	Y	N
E	K	A	O	J	W	B	H	R	C	O	E	V	P	M	P	V	V
U	R	L	X	O	C	I	U	L	E	A	K	H	M	Y	O	P	A
I	F	Z	N	Q	H	T	I	I	A	K	N	I	G	G	L	I	D
V	Y	I	B	Q	C	P	T	Q	X	R	P	S	Z	R	G	Y	D
F	Z	P	N	O	J	Q	C	W	E	Y	G	S	P	O	Z	L	C
M	X	T	N	K	H	P	I	H	Z	C	L	E	E	W	Q	X	Y
S	T	W	E	D	C	L	T	C	X	E	G	A	Q	L	F	H	S
W	N	W	J	V	W	N	O	C	T	D	Z	L	A	Y	R	O	L
X	F	V	M	K	A	X	O	Z	N	A	Q	U	H	V	C	T	A
W	V	R	N	P	C	N	L	V	F	V	E	A	N	Q	K	W	O

Hiss

Swamp

Panther

Growl

Carnivore

Nocturnal

Large

Cat

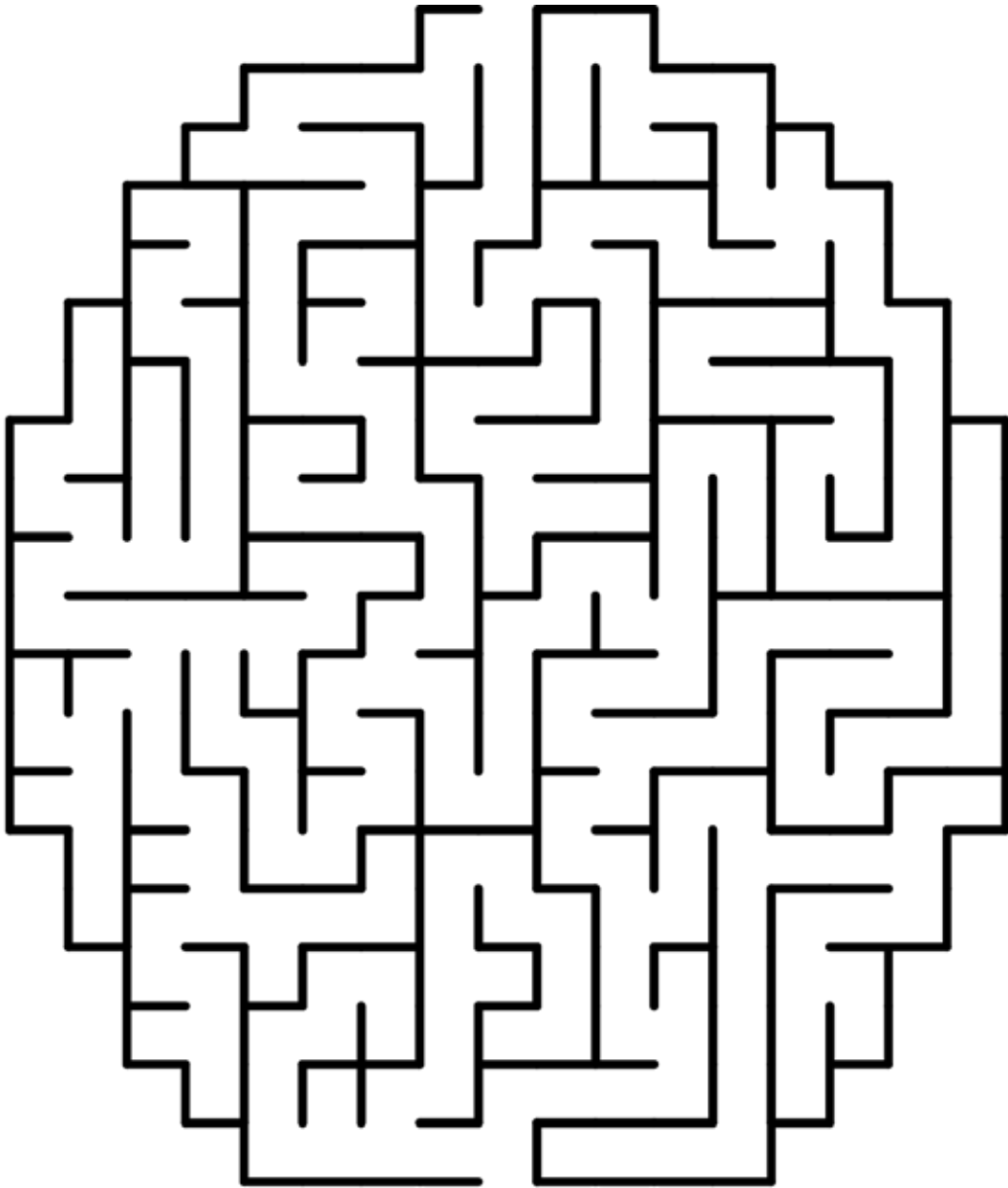
Puma

Snarl

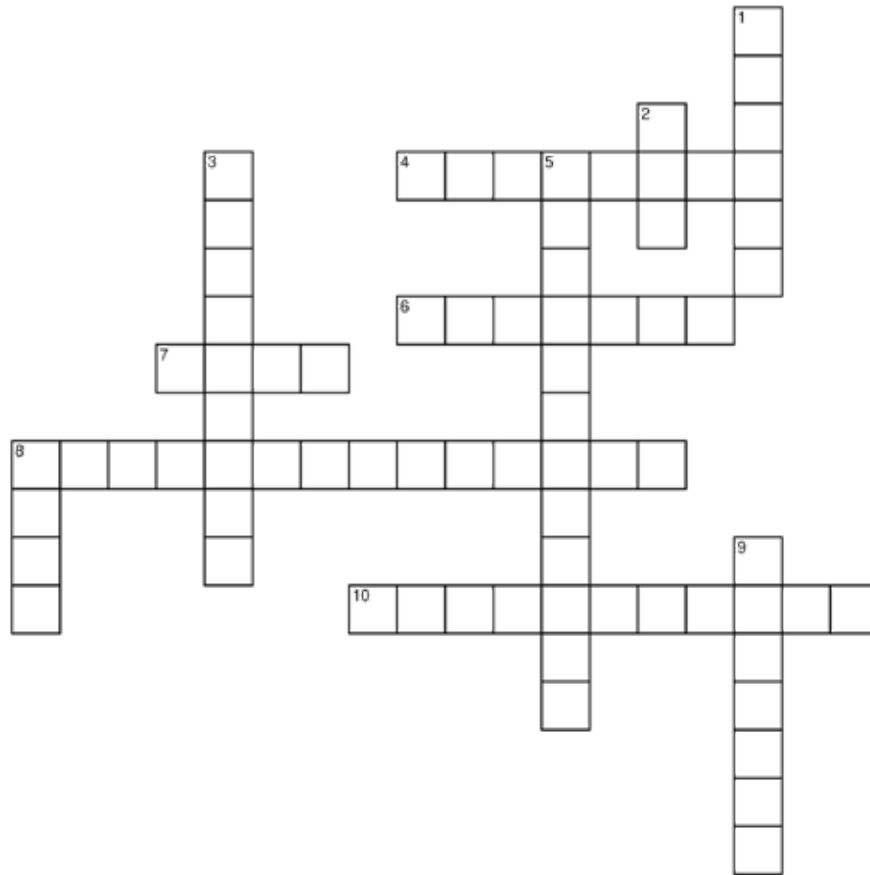
Florida

Mammal

# MAZE



# CROSSWORD



## Across

- [4]** The Florida panther is a subspecies of \_\_\_lion  
**[6]** A cause for the population drop in 1973  
**[7]** Cannot roar, but they will \_\_\_ to communicate.  
**[8]** A threatening disease  
**[10]** Males have larger ones

## Down

- [1]** The average lifespan of a Florida panther in the wild?  
**[2]** Florida panther's fur color  
**[3]** Is the Florida panther nocturnal or diurnal?  
**[5]** Continent where the panther lives  
**[8]** Number of kittens in a litter  
**[9]** Young panthers





# Solution

