



United States Department of Agriculture



My FLORIDA TRAIL

ADVENTURE

A Kid's Guide to Adventure on the
Florida National Scenic Trail

Games, Facts, Tips and More

Grades 3-5



National Forests
in Florida

R8 - RG 489

July 2024

THIS JUNIOR EXPLORER BOOK BELONGS TO _____



BECOME A JUNIOR EXPLORER

Want to become a **Florida Trail Junior Explorer**? Each reading, fact or activity is worth a number of Trail Blazer Points.

Look for the points:

1

For example, if you read the “What is the Florida Trail?” Section on this page you earn 2 Trail Blazer Points. Add up how many points you have earned at the bottom of each page. There are a total of 6 points available on this page.

When you have earned **120 or more** Trail Blazer Points, sign the Junior Explorer pledge in the back of the book and send it in to receive your **Junior Explorer Certificate**.



This book follows **Florida State Standards** for 3rd through 5th grade students.

*Special thanks to Melissa Martin, Molly Larmie and Simone N. de Lestang
Design and illustration by Narayan Das Ghiotti Montoya*

What does it mean to be a Florida Trail Junior Explorer?

2

Florida Trail Junior Explorers pledge to help protect and conserve the natural, historic and scenic resources of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Junior Explorers also pledge to learn about the trail, share what they know with others and have fun while exploring!

What Is The Florida Trail?

2

The Florida National Scenic Trail, or Florida Trail for short, is one of 11 National Scenic Trails within the United States. The Florida Trail is 1,300 miles long, running from Big Cypress National Preserve in the southern tip of Florida all the way to Gulf Islands National Seashore in the Florida panhandle. The Florida Trail is run by the U.S. Forest Service but it travels through public and private lands managed by over 76 partners throughout the state. The Florida Trail is the perfect place to get outdoors and experience the natural beauty of Florida.

How do I use this book?

2

This book is your personal guide to adventure on the Florida Trail. As a Junior Explorer, you will learn about the natural, historic and scenic resources found on the trail and how to protect them too. Bring the Florida Trail Junior Explorer Guide Book with you on your next hike or complete the activities at home. Complete the book to earn a Junior Explorer Certificate.

Trail Blazer Points



ADVENTURE WITH SPEEDY

Speedy the Gopher Tortoise will help you on your journey to become a Florida Trail Junior Explorer. Look for each of these symbols to earn Trail Blazer Points and learn more about the Florida Trail.



Secrets of the trail

Speedy the Gopher Tortoise knows lots of fun facts about the Florida Trail. Learn more about the trail and share with your friends and family.



Fun on the trail

Try these fun games and activities the next time you go on an outdoor adventure.



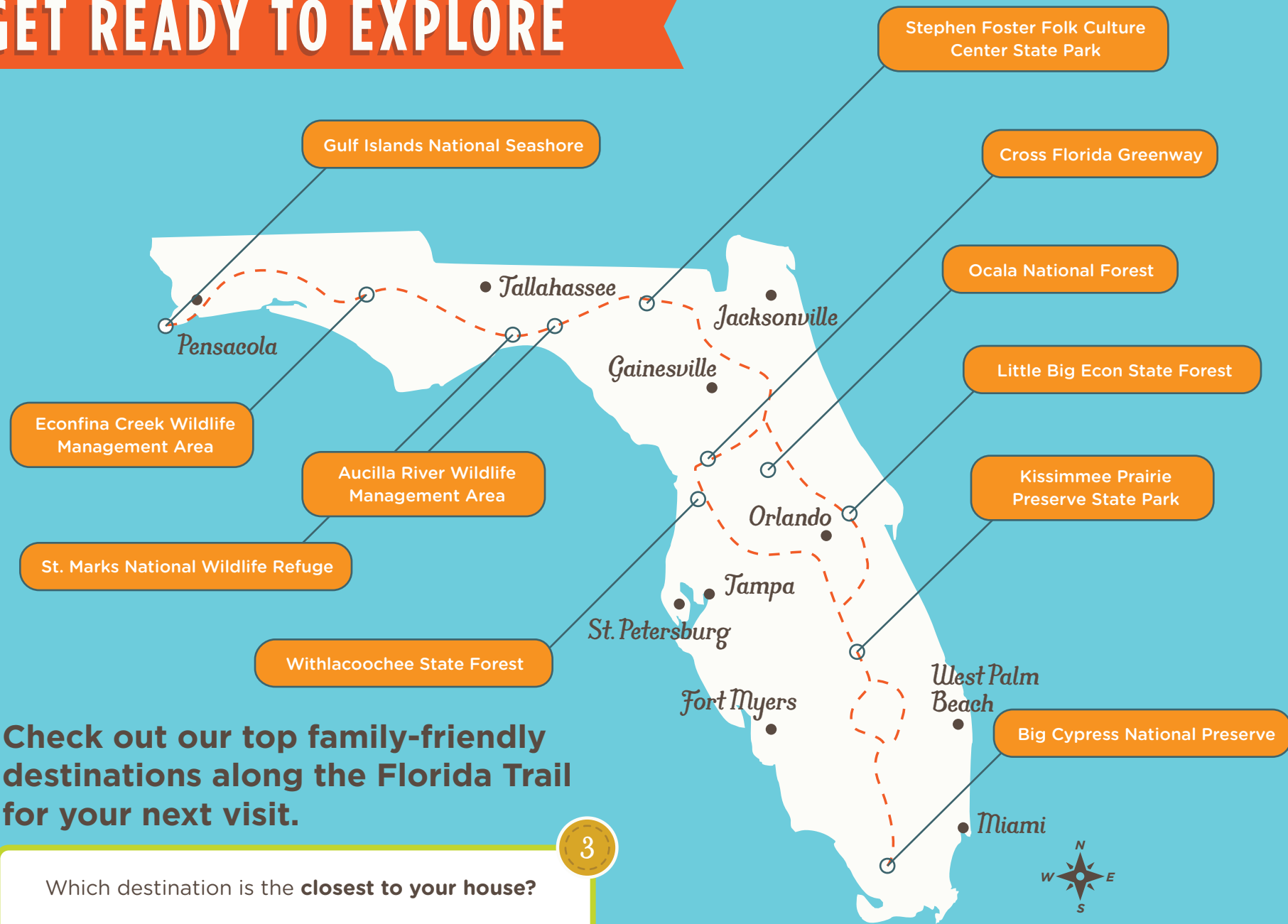
Try this at home

Learn more about the Florida Trail with these fun activities to do at home.

SPEEDY THE GOPHER TORTOISE



GET READY TO EXPLORE



Check out our top family-friendly destinations along the Florida Trail for your next visit.

3

Which destination is the **closest to your house**?



SAFETY FIRST

Before you start your journey on the Florida Trail, it is important to think of safety first! Being prepared is one of the easiest ways for Junior Explorers to stay safe on their adventures.

Unscramble the words below to find out what you should bring with you on your next adventure.

4

pam _____

capossm _____

retaw _____

snkca _____

ewhitsl _____

shaf lighi _____

gub sypra _____

seencrsun _____

sritf adi tik _____

ktacje _____

ckakbacp _____

Answers: map, compass, water, snack, whistle, flash light, bug spray, sunscreen, first aid kit, jacket, backpack

Secrets of the trail



2

You can hike and view wildlife anywhere along the trail but on some parts you can bike, ride horses or even canoe. Check the Forest Service website before you go out to see what activities are allowed on the trail near you.



Fun on the trail

1

Create a Never Ending Story with your friends and family. Start to tell a story then pass it along to another person to continue the plot. Keep going as long as you want. It never has to end!

Here are some extra safety tips for your next adventure on the Florida Trail

- Make sure to bring lots of water and snacks.
- Always hike with at least one adult.
- Read and follow signs and forest ranger instructions.
- If you camp, make sure your campfire is dead before leaving your campsite.



FLORIDA TRAIL HISTORY

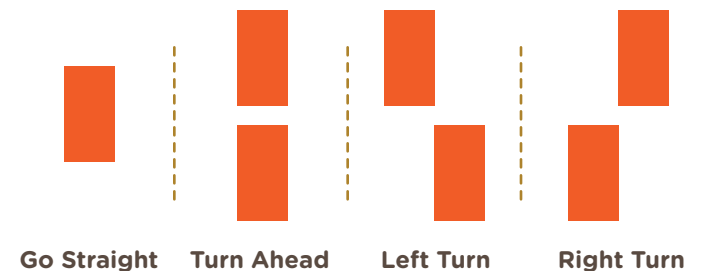
The Florida Trail started as a dream to make a trail that traveled from the Everglades to the northern border of Florida. Through collaboration and perseverance, the Florida Trail was named a National Scenic Trail in 1983 for its outstanding natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources. Today the trail travels 1,500 miles and is one of 11 **National Scenic Trails**, or long distance hiking trails, designated by the United States Congress.



What's a blaze?

The first blaze of the Florida Trail in Ocala National Forest was painted on October 29, 1966. Blazes help you to find your way while you are exploring. A **blaze** is a small, rectangular painted marker found on trees or posts along the Florida Trail. Lots of trails have blazes, but the Florida Trail blazes are unique because they are **orange**. Study the blazing guide before your next hike so you know how to follow the trail.

Study the Blazing Guide



Try this at home

Design your own blaze to mark a trail through your backyard or a local park. Use sticks, leaves or other natural materials to communicate with your friends and family!





Secrets of the trail



2

The Florida Trail belongs to YOU! The U.S. Forest Service is a federal government agency that helps conserve and protect public lands, like those along the Florida Trail. Public lands belong to everyone so make sure to enjoy and protect them.



Fun on the trail

1

Make the Florida Trail logo out of items you find on trail like leaves, sticks and stones. When you are done make sure to take a picture.

Reveal the Florida Trail colors

Solve the math problems to color the Florida Trail logo by number. Makes sure to solve the problem in the parenthesis first.

For example $(3+2) \times 5 = (5) \times 5 = 25$

5

$$(10-7) - 2 = \text{Orange}$$

$$(5 \times 4) \div 10 = \text{Green}$$

$$18 \div 6 = \text{Light Blue}$$



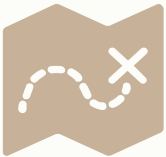
Answers: 1=light blue, 2=green, 3=orange



LET'S NAVIGATE

Finding your way on the Florida Trail is easy if you learn how to **navigate**, or follow a route or map to get from one place to another. Hikers use several tools to stay on trail including a map and compass, trail blazes or even GPS units.

Tools of the trade 3



Maps give you a birds-eye-view of the area you are hiking and show landmarks and directions to get to a destination. Every map has a north arrow, which shows you direction, and a scale, which represents the real distance on the ground.



A **compass** has a magnetic needle that always points north. North is one of four **cardinal directions**. The others are south, east and west.

To navigate, place your compass on top of the north arrow on your map and turn until both the north arrows line up. As you walk on the trail, you will see the twists and turns on the ground happen on the map too.



Christina Lambard



Fun on the trail 1

Tell jokes to your family and friends while you are on the trail. Try these:

What kind of plant grows on your hand?
... A palm tree!

What kind of shorts do clouds wear?
... Thunderwear!



LEAD THE WAY!

Learn to navigate using a map

8

Start your hike at the trailhead. Use the map scale, 1 grid line = 1 mile, and the four cardinal directions (north, south, east and west) to answer the questions below. **Circle the correct answers.**

- 1) About how far is the **Trailhead** from the **campsite**? A. 1 B. 3 C. 5 D. 10
- 2) From the **campsite** to **Big Dismal Sink**, how many miles do you need to travel?
A. 1 B. 3 C. 5 D. 7
- 3) What direction do you need to travel to go from the **Trailhead** to the **Swamp**?
A. North B. South C. East D. West
- 4) Which trail would be the fastest to take from the **Trailhead** to **Big Dismal Sink**?
(Hint: which trail is a shorter distance?)
A. Trail A B. Trail B

Answers: 1) C; 2) B; 3) D; 4) A

Map Legend

Parking area



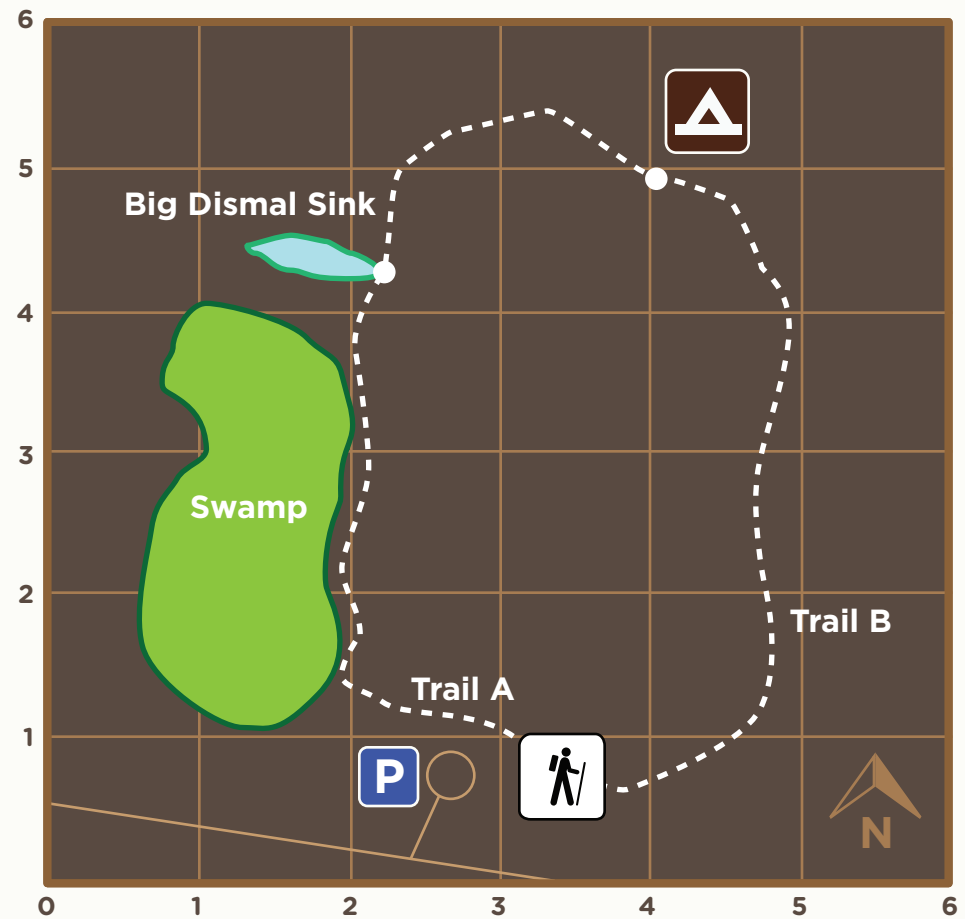
Trailhead



Campsite



Map Key: 1 square = 1 mile

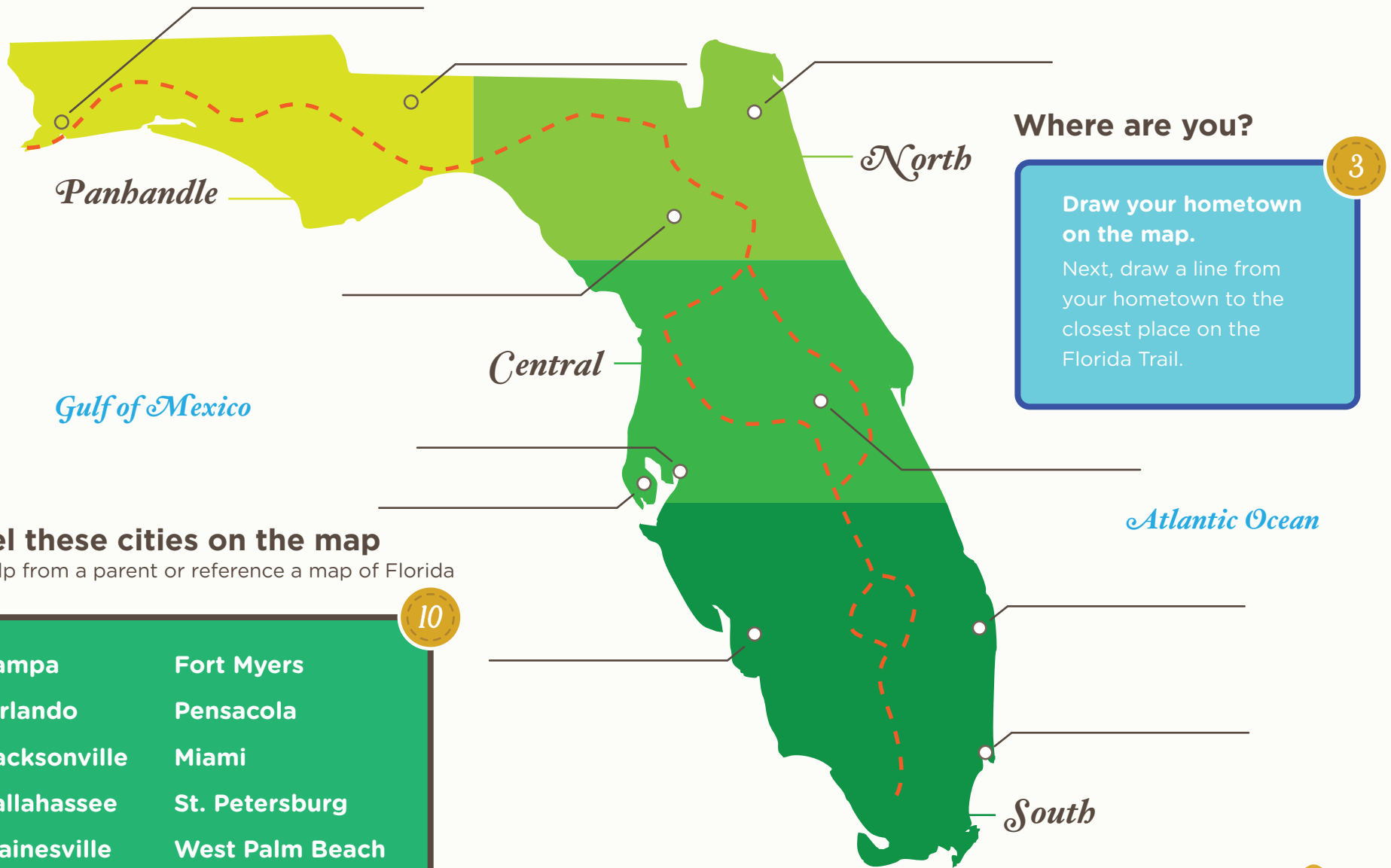


Trail Blazer Points



MAP OUT FLORIDA

The Florida Trail is located within 2 hours of most Florida residents. **A region** is a large geographic area that has similar nature and history. The map below shows the ten largest cities, the four state regions and the Florida Trail, in orange.



DISCOVER THE SUNSHINE STATE

Use the map on the opposite page

6

1) Which of these cities is Florida's State Capitol?

2) What region is your hometown in?

3) Which coast is the Atlantic Ocean on, the east or west coast?



Try this at home

Map out your neighborhood! With an adult and a compass, walk in each of the cardinal directions around your neighborhood. On a sheet of paper, draw the roads, buildings, trees and other landmarks you would like to include in your map. Share your map with your friends and family when you finish.

My Top Adventure Destinations

Go to the U.S. Forest Service website, at www.fs.usda.gov/fnst with your parents to see where you can go on your next Florida Trail adventure.

Write down three places you would like to visit on the Florida Trail.

3

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____



Fun on the trail

Sometimes the most exciting things you discover outdoors are the smallest. Keep your eyes peeled for these items on your adventure along the Florida Trail.



To Earn Points:

Complete 4 in a row

5

Complete all 4 corners

5

Find all objects

10

Secrets of the trail



2

Scat is a technical name for animal droppings or poop! Scientists can learn a lot by observing scat including where animals live, what they eat and if they are healthy.

Remember to be a trail steward and leave anything you find on the trail just as you found it. If you don't know what something is, take a picture and show it to an adult, teacher or park ranger. They may be able to help you discover some of the secrets of the Florida Trail.

Trail Blazer Points



HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

A hike along the Florida Trail can be a hike back in time! It is your job as a Junior Explorer to learn about all the ways that people lived in the past.

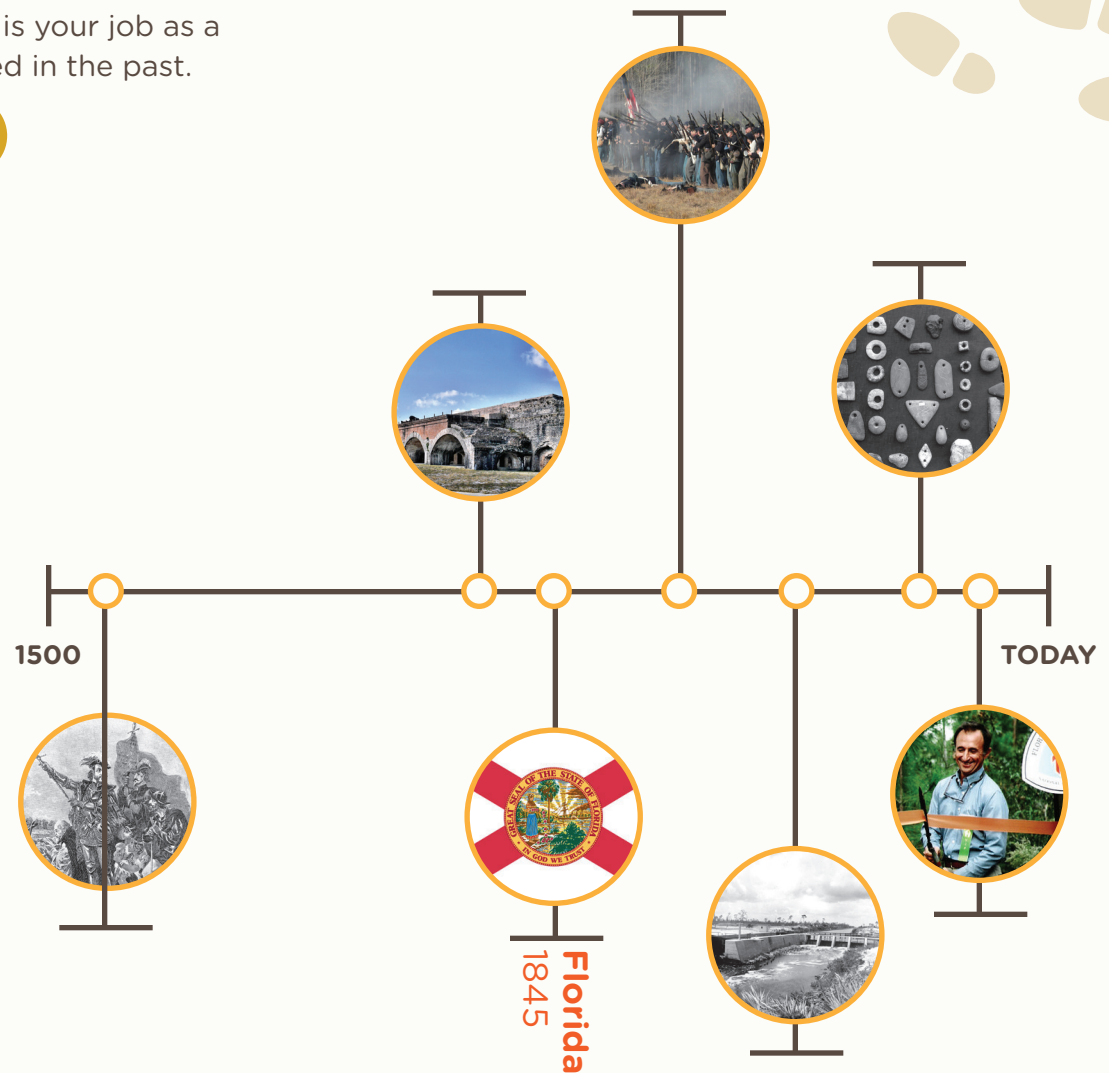
10

Match each of the historic and cultural resources along the Florida Trail with their picture on the timeline. Label each point on the timeline with its **name** and **date** in **bold**. For example:

Florida became a state in **1845**.

Add in your birth date when you finish.

- **Hernando de Soto**, a Spanish conquistador, crossed the Suwannee River in **1539**.
- Florida's largest Civil War battle at **Olustee Battlefield** took place on February 20, **1864**.
- In **1913** the **Everglades Drainage District** was created to drain the Everglades and turn it into farmland.
- **Fort Pickens**, one of the largest brick forts in the United States, was built in **1834**.
- The **National Historic Preservation Act** was passed in **1966** to protect cultural resources and artifacts.
- The Florida Trail was designated as the **Florida National Scenic Trail** in **1983**.



SCENIC RESOURCES

Scenery, or the way a natural area looks, surrounds us everywhere we go, but some places have especially beautiful views. Scenic resources are important because seeing them can help people to relax or to understand the character of an area. Part of the Forest Service's work is to protect the scenic resources along the Florida Trail and keep them beautiful for future generations to enjoy.

In the boxes below, draw the famous landscapes of the Florida Trail. A **landscape** is a view of a natural place. Draw pictures 1 and 2 in their boxes below. In the third box, draw your own favorite landscape. Make sure to include plants, animals, water and sky. Finish by drawing yourself and your family in your favorite landscape.

Secrets of the trail



2

There are clouds on every planet with an atmosphere. There are even clouds on the moon! Sometimes the most beautiful scenery can be in the sky so make sure to look up and enjoy!

1

3

2

3



1



Robert Coveney

View of the Econlockhatchee River

2



Barbara Bowen

View of Seminole State Forest

3

Draw your favorite landscape. Include plants, animals, water and sky. Draw yourself and your family in the landscape.



3

8



NATIVE FLORIDA PLANTS

The Florida Trail passes through many different ecosystems. An **ecosystem** is made up of all the living and non-living parts of the environment. These include plants, animals, organisms and the weather, sunlight, soil and water that interacts with them. These Florida ecosystems are home to many **native species**, or plants and animals that are found naturally in Florida, maybe even nowhere else.

Ecosystems



Scrub



Pine Flatwoods



Cypress Swamps



Dry Prairie



Coastal Dunes



Hardwood Hammocks

Pictures courtesy of Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI).

Secrets of the trail



2

In Florida there are almost 10 million acres of conservation lands that protect important ecosystems. Over 1 million of these acres are managed by the Forest Service.

Trail Blazer Points



Use the clues below to match these native Florida plants to their favorite ecosystems along the Florida Trail.

Plants



American beautyberry

Grow in shady hammocks

Ecosystem: _____



Saw palmetto

Cluster in prairies

Ecosystem: _____



Sea oats

Help build sand dunes

Ecosystem: _____



Airplane bromeliad

Cling to cypress trees

Ecosystem: _____



Longleaf pine (grass stage)

Grow to be the tallest trees in flatwoods.

Ecosystem: _____



Florida rosemary

Prefer sandy, scrubby places

Ecosystem: _____

Answers: Florida rosemary to scrub. Longleaf pine to pine flatwoods. Airplane bromeliad to cypress swamps. Saw palmetto to dry prairie. Sea oats to coastal dunes. American beautyberry to hardwood hammock.



ANIMALS OF FLORIDA

An **endangered species** is a rare plant or animal whose population is in danger of becoming extinct. There are many rare, protected and endangered species living in habitats along the Florida Trail. To get a better look at the wildlife, bring binoculars on your next adventure!

Categorize each of these animals by their **animal class**, or **type**, and **diet** described below. When you are finished, circle the mammal that is not native. Draw a square around the Florida state insect.

Animal Classes

Mammals make their own body heat, even when it is cold outside. They also have hair or fur and produce milk for their young.

Reptiles have rough, scaly skin like a basketball. Their body temperature changes with the environment.

Amphibians have smooth, slimy skin like a frog and live around water. Their body temperature changes with the environment.

Birds have feathers and lay eggs.

Fish have scales covering their bodies and gills that help them breathe underwater.

Arthropods have a skeleton on the outside of their bodies and have many joints and legs.

Secrets of the trail

Over 97% of the world's animals are invertebrates! Invertebrates don't have a backbone like worms, insects or starfish.

Animal Diet

Herbivores eat only plants

Carnivores eat only other animals

Omnivores eat both plant and animal matter

Trail Blazer Points



Chris Kincaid

Florida scrub jay *Aphelocoma coerulescens*

Habitat: Florida Scrub

Food: Insects, acorns and small vertebrates

Animal class: _____

Diet type: _____



Indigo snake *Drymarchon couperi*

Habitat: Pine and oak sandhills

Food: Insects, acorns and small vertebrates

Animal class: _____

Diet type: _____



Zebra longwing butterfly

Heliconius charitonia

Habitat: Hardwood hammocks

Food: Passion flower plant nectar and leaves

Animal class: _____

Diet type: _____



Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*

Habitat: Hardwood hammocks, prairies and flatwoods

Food: Insects, worms, small reptiles, bird eggs and fruits

Animal class: _____

Diet type: _____



Flatwoods salamander

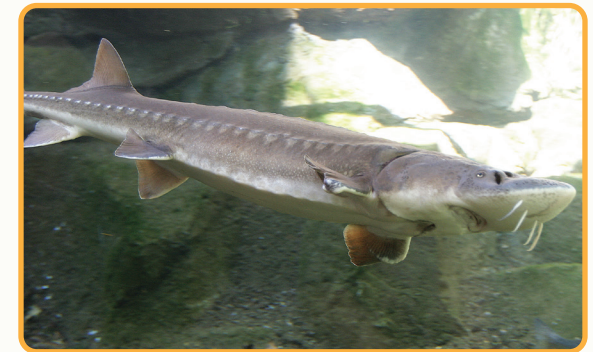
Ambystoma cingulatum

Habitat: Longleaf pine forests and ponds

Food: Earthworms, spiders, crustaceans and other invertebrates

Animal class: _____

Diet type: _____



Gulf sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*

Habitat: Gulf of Mexico and freshwater rivers

Food: Insects, crabs, shrimp and worms

Animal class: _____

Diet type: _____

Answers:

Scrub jay- bird, omnivore. Gulf sturgeon- fish, carnivore. Armadillo- mammal, omnivore. Flatwoods salamander- amphibian, carnivore. Zebra longwing butterfly- arthropod, herbivore



FIRES IN FLORIDA

Just like a doctor prescribes medicine to keep people healthy, land managers prescribe fire to many Florida ecosystems to keep them healthy. Scientists and forest rangers use **prescribed fire** as a tool. Careful application of fire by a team of fire experts can encourage new growth of native plants and healthy habitat for animals.

One ecosystem that depends on fire is the longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem. It is home to a lot of **biodiversity**: a variety of plants and animals that can occur in one area. These plants and animals are **fire dependent**, meaning they depend on fire to survive. If there is no fire, then thick plant cover can make it too shady for native plants and the animals that eat them to live there.

The pictures below show evidence of fire in an ecosystem. On your next adventure, observe the forest for signs of fire while you are hiking.



During a prescribed burn



New plant growth after a fire



Madeline Pinaire

View of a fire-managed forest

Secrets of the trail



2

Florida has more prescribed fires than any other state in the U.S.

Try this at home



1

To learn more about prescribed fires and see a map of where they are happening in the state right now, visit the Why Prescribed Firewebsite at:

www.whyprescribedfire.org/burn-map/



GET SPEEDY TO SAFETY

Help Speedy the Gopher Tortoise take cover during a prescribed fire.

Don't get distracted by Speedy's burrow mates and watch out for predators like foxes.

10

The habitat for many species of animals and plants depends on periodic fire. Without fire, dense plant cover makes it harder for gopher tortoises to navigate and find the plants they like to eat.

Gopher tortoises are very important because they dig burrows, which are permanent homes or temporary residences used by as many as 400 species! When a fire is happening above ground, animals use burrows as shelter to survive. The Forest Service and land managers along the Florida Trail set prescribed fires throughout the state to manage habitat for threatened animals.



ENTER

GOPHER FROG

FOX

FLORIDA MOUSE

FINISH

RATTLESNAKE



MAKE AN IMPACT

Humans do a lot of things that positively impact the environment, like conserving natural lands or volunteering for beach clean ups. Humans also do a lot of things that negatively impact the environment, like leaving trash or introducing non-native species into ecosystems. Not littering is one of the easiest ways to practice stewardship. Leaving one piece of trash might not seem like a big deal, but if everyone left one then there would be a big impact.

Trash Timeline

Complete the math problems below to find out how long it takes trash to decompose, or break down over time.

Glass bottle $12,000,000 \div 12 =$ _____ years

Aluminum can $40 \times 5 =$ _____ years

Plastic beverage bottle $27 + 123 =$ _____ years

Plastic bag $60 \div 3 =$ _____ years

Apple core $8 - 5 =$ _____ months

Banana peel $20 \div 4 =$ _____ weeks

Paper towel $4 \times 5 =$ _____ weeks

3

What type of trash takes the longest to decompose?

Why is it important to not litter?

7



LEAVE NO TRACE

As a Florida Trail Junior Explorer, it is up to you to be an **environmental steward**. This means taking responsibility to care for the environment. You can do this at home by saving water and reducing, reusing and recycling. Outdoors, you can practice stewardship by learning **Leave No Trace** principles or practicing “LNT.”

Learn the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and teach them to your friends and parents before your next trip on the Florida Trail.



6

1) Know Before You Go: Before your next trip, look up weather, directions and maps of the Florida Trail. Don't forget to bring appropriate clothing to protect you from rain, heat or cold!

2) Chose the Right Path: The Florida Trail is marked with orange blazes. Stay on the main trail while you are out to protect animal habitat. Use established campsites or make sure to camp 200 feet away from the trail, water or roads.

3) Trash Your Trash: Make sure that anything you take into the woods you also take out of the woods. If you pack it in, then pack it out! If you use the bathroom while hiking, make sure to be 200 feet away from water.

4) Leave What You Find: Take only pictures and leave only footprints. As a Junior Explorer, it is important that you leave everything looking the same or better than you found it.

5) Be Careful With Fire: Even though prescribed fires are important for ecosystems, campfires are not. Only build campfires in existing fire rings with small, dead wood found on the ground. Be sure your campfire is completely out before you leave.

6) Respect Wildlife: Watch wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed or follow any animals you find on the trail. One of the best ways to see wildlife is by using binoculars instead of getting close. When you are camping, seal food tightly and store it out of reach of any animals.

7) Be Kind to Other Visitors: Preserve the natural quiet of the outdoors and avoid yelling or making lots of loud noises, it might scare away wildlife! Be respectful to any other visitors while you are on the trail.



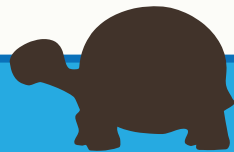
Secrets of the trail



Chris Kincaid

Florida black bears are the largest mammals in the state and are a rare and protected species. Black bears inherit behavior, or instincts, that are passed down from parents to offspring. Some **inherited behaviors** by bears are sleeping in dens in the winter or cubs nursing when hungry. Bears are very smart and can easily learn new behaviors too. Bears like to eat a lot of calories and they have to spend a lot of time searching for food in the wild. If a bear finds garbage or pet food once, then it will learn to look for high calorie human food instead of natural food sources in the future. This is called a **learned behavior**.

You can help make sure Florida black bears stay healthy and in the wild. When you are camping near bear habitat on the Florida Trail, store your food in a tightly sealed container or bear canister so bears can't smell it. To prevent a bear from finding your food while you are camping make sure to cook and hang your food in a tree (or a bear hang) at least 200 feet away from your campsite at night.



2

Try this at home

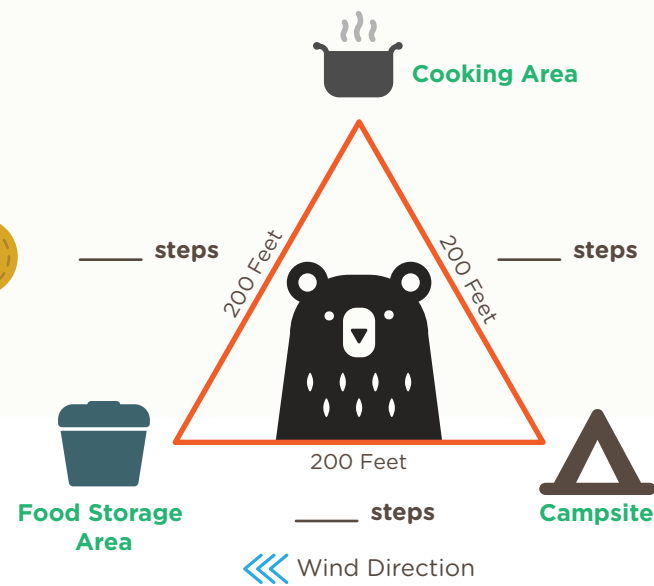


1

Find your LNT Magic Number! Have an adult measure 100 feet on the ground. Walk the distance and count your steps. Multiply that number by 2 to get your LNT magic number. When you are hiking, make sure to walk that many steps away from any water source before you use the bathroom.

Complete the bear camping safety diagram by adding in your LNT magic number.

3



What is a **learned behavior** of a Florida black bear?

What is one thing you can do to prevent a bear from learning behavior and finding human food while you are camping?

2

Trail Blazer Points



EXPRESS YOURSELF

Florida is home to many famous naturalists who wrote about their time outdoors to share their experiences with other people. Writing poetry is one way of expressing yourself and sharing your adventures with your friends and family.

A **haiku** is a type of poem that follows a specific pattern. Haikus have **5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line and 5 syllables in the third line**. Syllables are the parts of a word that represent one sound. To count the syllables in a word, place your hand one inch under your chin. As you say a word out loud, count how many times your chin hits your hand.



Here is an example:

The Florida Trail

Is a beautiful place to

See the great outdoors!

Write your own haiku about adventuring outside or on the Florida Trail. Make sure to count the syllables to get the correct number in each line.

6





Fun on the trail: Geocaching

Geocaching is an outdoor game using hand-held global positioning system (GPS) devices. It's an interactive high-tech treasure hunt that is a great way to learn about the geography of an area. When you find a cache, or treasure, make sure to sign the logbook, take a trinket and leave a trinket. Caches can be found along the Florida Trail, in Florida State Parks or Water Management District Lands.

How to Geocache:

- 1) Go to the geocaching website or download the geocaching app to discover geocaches near you.
- 2) Head to the Florida Trail or a Florida State Park.
*Make sure to check the land manager website beforehand to make sure they allow geocaching.
- 3) Enter your location or coordinates into your GPS device or smartphone.
- 4) Follow the clues provided to search for the cache.
- 5) When you find the cache, sign the logbook.
- 6) If you remove a trinket from the cache, replace it with something of equal value.
- 7) Put the cache back exactly where you found it.
- 8) Repeat!

What you need:

- **GPS device or smartphone**
- **Paper or tracking sheet**
- **Pencil**
- **Small inexpensive trinkets to exchange**



Christina Lambard

Check the Florida Forest Service and Florida State Parks websites for more information on geocaching near the Florida Trail. To learn more about geocaching, visit this website:

<https://www.geocaching.com/guide/>



Trail Blazer Points



OBSERVATIONS ON THE TRAIL

It may not seem like it, but the Earth is constantly changing. You can see changes in small ways, like changing weather, or big ways like hurricanes or wildfires. Understanding these changes and knowing about the world around us helps us to live better and safer lives.

Scientists use observations to understand the world around us. An **observation** is the act of making or recording a measurement. Take 10 minutes and sit quietly outside to observe your surroundings on the Florida Trail or even in your backyard. Use all your senses and make sure to record textures you feel, smells you smell and sounds you hear. **Record your notes on the data sheet below.**

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Total Distance on the Trail: _____

Time It Took To Hike: _____

Rate of Travel*: _____

*Hint: Rate of travel = total distance you hiked divided by the time it took you to hike. For example, 3 miles ÷ 4 hours = .75 miles per hour (mph)

Weather Conditions: _____

Interesting Plants and Animals:

Landscape Observations:

Textures:

Smells:

Sounds:

10



GLOSSARY

Amphibian – animals that have smooth, slimy skin and get their body heat from the outside environment.

Arthropod – invertebrate animals that have pairs of legs like spiders, insects and crabs.

Bird – animals that are born from hard-shelled eggs, have wings and feathers.

Biodiversity – the variety or range of life found in a habitat or ecosystem.

Blaze – a painted rectangle that marks the location of a trail.

Cardinal direction – one of the four main points of a compass: North, South, East or West.

Compass – navigation tool with an arrow always showing the direction of the magnetic north pole of the earth.

Decompose – the process of breaking down or rotting.

Ecosystem – a community of plants, animals and organisms interacting with their physical environment.

Endangered Species – a rare plant or animal species that is in serious risk of dying out completely, or becoming extinct.

Fire Dependent – plants, animals and ecosystems that depend on fire to survive.

Fish – animals that live and breathe underwater with gills. Their bodies are covered in scales.

Inherited Behavior – a behavior an animal exhibits that is inherited from its parents.

Invertebrate – animals that do not have a backbone.

Landscape – the features of an area of land.

Learned Behavior – a behavior that an animal learns from the environment it lives in.

Mammal – animals that drink milk from their mothers and have hair on their bodies.

National Scenic Trail – a long distance trail designated by Congress for its high scenic qualities and recreational value.

Native Species – a plant or animal species that occurs naturally in an environment.

Navigate – the act of following a trail or route by using instruments such as a map, compass or GPS unit.

Observation – the process of watching something closely to learn more information about it.

Prescribed Fire – a controlled fire started and monitored by fire ecologists and fire fighters to maintain the health of a forest.

Protected Species – a plant or animal species that is protected from harm by law.

Region – a large geographic area with similar history and nature.

Reptile – animals that are covered in scales, get their body heat from the outside environment and are born on land.

Scenic – a view of impressive or beautiful natural scenery.

Stewardship – the practice of responsible use and protection of the natural environment.

CONGRATULATIONS!

After you complete each of the activities in the Florida Trail Junior Explorer Handbook you are ready to become an official Junior Explorer!

Sign and date the Florida Trail Junior Explorer pledge once you have earned 120 or more Trail Blazer Points. Next, go to www.floridatrail.org/explorer-guide-cert to print out your signed Junior Explorer certificate.

Add up every page to get your total Trail Blazer Points.

Curriculum Standards

Page 8 - SS.1.G.1.1, SS.1.G.1.3, SS.4.G.1.2, SS.1.G.1.5, SS.2.G.1.2

Page 9-10 - SS.4.G.1.1, SS.4.G.1.2, SS.2.CG.2.5

Page 11 - SS.4.A.9.1

Page 12-13 - VA.4.C.1.1

Page 14-17- SC.3.L.15.1, SC.L.15.2, SC.K.L.14.3

Page 20-22 MA.3.NSO.2.2, MA.3.AR.2.1

Page 23 - ELA.3.R.1.4

Page 25 -SC.K.L.14.3, WL.K12.IM.5.7, ELA.K.R.3.1



As a Florida Trail Junior Explorer,
I, _____, pledge to
help protect and conserve the natural, historic and
scenic resources of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

I pledge to be a trail steward, to share what I have
learned with others, and to have fun while
exploring the Florida Trail.

Trail Blazer Points



Signature _____

Date _____



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