

My Florida House

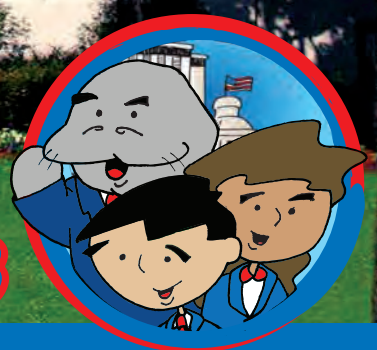
FACTS & FUN



New Games & Puzzles



New Things To Learn



New Fun Characters

WELCOME TO THE
FLORIDA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Three Branches of Government



Legislative

The Legislature is divided into two houses. The House of Representatives and the Senate make laws that govern Florida.

There are 120 members of the House of Representatives and 40 members of the Senate.

Each spring, the members of the House of Representatives and Senate meet in order to make laws.



Executive

The Governor of Florida is the head of the executive branch of government. When a bill comes to the Governor's desk, there are three choices:

1. The bill can be signed into law;
2. It can be allowed to become law without a signature; or
3. It can be vetoed.

If the Governor vetoes the bill, a two-thirds vote of the membership in both the House and Senate will override the veto.



Judicial

The highest court in our state is the Florida Supreme Court.

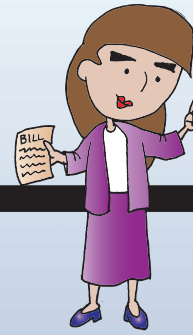
There is a Chief Justice who serves as the highest ranking member of the Supreme Court with six other justices, making a total of seven justices.

The Supreme Court makes sure that laws are constitutional, meaning that the laws of the state must adhere to the Constitution of the State of Florida.

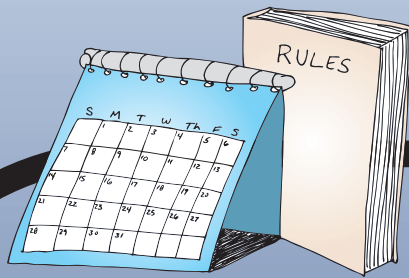
How an Idea



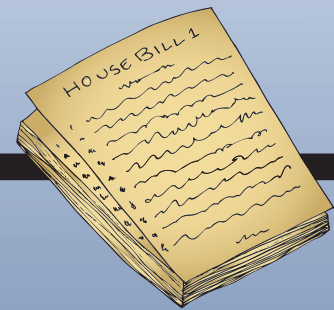
Concerned Citizens
suggest legislation



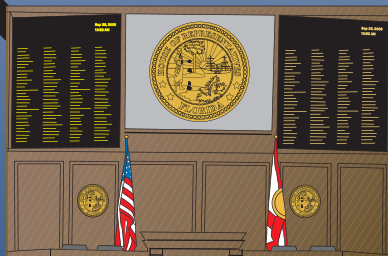
Representative
introduces the bill



Rules & Calendar Committee
places the bill on the Special
Order Calendar to be considered
in the House Chamber



The Bill
is placed on the
House Calendar



House Chamber
reads the bill a second and
third time — this is when the
members will amend, debate,
and vote on the bill



The House
sends a message and the bill to
the Senate stating the House has
passed the bill and would like for
the Senate to do the same

takes
similar
bill, and

Becomes a Law



Bill Drafting

writes, numbers, and files the bill



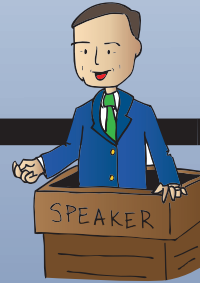
Clerk's Office

reads the bill the first time in the *Journal*



Committees & Subcommittees

hear the bill, may make changes, and report the action to the Clerk



Speaker

refers the bill to a Committee, Subcommittee, or House Calendar



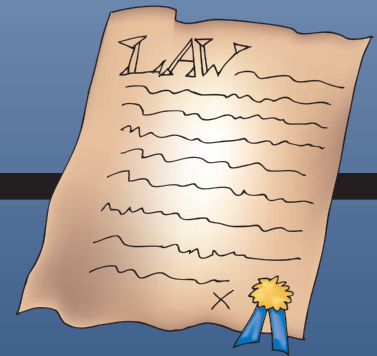
The Senate

the bill through a process, passes the returns the bill with a message



The Governor

receives the bill once it has passed both houses and can either sign the bill, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto the bill



Law

The House of Representatives

Speaker of the House

The Speaker is a constitutional officer who leads the House for a two-year term, manages its operations, and presides over its sessions. The Speaker is elected by his or her fellow representatives.



Speaker pro tempore

The Speaker pro tempore is also elected by his or her fellow representatives. In the absence of the Speaker, the Speaker pro tempore may exercise the authority of the Speaker.

Non-Member Officers

Clerk of the House

The Clerk of the House serves as a constitutional officer to maintain an accurate record of the actions of the House.

Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms is in charge of maintaining order in the Chamber and in committee rooms. The Sergeant also maintains the House's property.

The Senate

President

The President is the highest held position in the Senate. He or she is designated as President by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the Senate.



President Pro Tempore

The President Pro Tempore is chosen by the President and although he or she may preside in the Chamber during the absence of the President, a different senator could also be chosen to preside.

Non-Member Officers

Secretary of the Senate

The Secretary of the Senate serves as a constitutional officer to maintain an accurate record of the actions of the Senate.

Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms is in charge of maintaining order in the Chamber and in committee rooms. The Sergeant also maintains the Senate's property.

Our Capitol Through History



Florida's first Capitol building was a small log cabin built in 1824. Tallahassee was chosen as the capital site because it was the midpoint between the existing government centers in St. Augustine and Pensacola.

A two-story masonry building was built in 1826. The plan was that this building would serve as a wing of a larger structure that was planned for the future.



As Florida grew, the need for a larger Capitol did as well. In 1845, a brick Capitol building was completed. Today, this structure remains the core of the Old Capitol.

In 1891, the Capitol building needed expansion to accommodate a growing need for office space. Major alterations were made in 1902 when two wings were built to make more room for the state's growing government. A dome was also added.



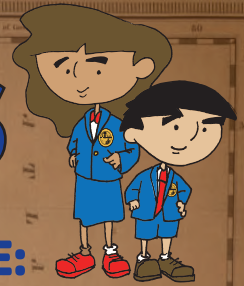
In 1977, the new Capitol was completed. The new Capitol complex included House and Senate chambers and offices as well as a 22-story executive office building. Today, the Old Capitol is open to the public and houses a museum of Florida's government history.



Florida's Capitol is one of only a few skyscraper capitols in the United States.



Florida's Symbols



**STATE ANIMAL:
FLORIDA PANTHER
DESIGNATED IN 1982**



The Florida panther is a large, long-tailed, pale brown cat that grows to six feet or longer. Its habitat is usually the same as that of the white-tailed deer, which is the mainstay of its diet.

**STATE BUTTERFLY:
ZEBRA LONGWING
DESIGNATED IN 1996**



Long black wings with distinctive thin yellow bands characterize the zebra longwing. The zebra longwing is commonly found in south Florida, particularly in the Everglades National Park.

**STATE REPTILE:
AMERICAN ALLIGATOR
DESIGNATED IN 1987**



Alligators are found throughout Florida and prefer lakes, swamps, canals, and other wetland habitats. Because alligators are cold-blooded reptiles, you can often see them sunning on logs or water banks.

**STATE BIRD:
MOCKINGBIRD
DESIGNATED IN 1927**



The mockingbird is found throughout the state of Florida. It is a superb songbird and mimic with a sound that is both varied and repetitive. Florida shares its designation of the mockingbird with Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas.

**STATE MARINE MAMMAL:
MANATEE
DESIGNATED IN 1975**



The manatee, also known as a sea cow, can reach 8-14 feet in length and can weigh more than a ton. The manatee's main habitats are coastal areas, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals, and rivers — mainly wherever seagrass beds and water plants are located. Manatees are on the endangered species list, although their chance for survival looks promising.

**STATE SALTWATER FISH:
SAILFISH
DESIGNATED IN 1975**



Sailfish are commonly found in warm ocean waters. In southern Florida, sailfish average 6-7 feet in length and weigh 30-45 pounds. Sailfish have distinctive features, with an upper jaw twice the length of the lower jaw and the first dorsal fin running almost the entire length of the body.

**STATE SALTWATER MAMMAL:
PORPOISE OR DOLPHIN
DESIGNATED IN 1975**



Porpoises have no sense of smell, but they have great eyesight and use a system called echolocation, which is similar to sonar. Most porpoises and dolphins are between 6-8 feet long and are usually found near Florida's Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

**STATE FRESHWATER FISH:
LARGEMOUTH BASS
DESIGNATED IN 1975**



The largemouth bass is characterized by its distinguishing features, an exceptionally large mouth and a deep notch in the dorsal fin. Largemouth bass can weigh more than 15 pounds and measure up to 20 inches in length. Their habitat consists of quiet, vegetation-rich waters.

**STATE TREE:
SABAL PALM
DESIGNATED IN 1953**



The sabal palm is found throughout Florida and can grow in many types of soil. The sabal palm has multiple uses including food, medicine, and landscaping. The entrance to the Old Capitol has a sabal palm tree on each side of the steps.

**STATE FLOWER:
ORANGE BLOSSOM
DESIGNATED IN 1909**



Florida's state flower is the orange blossom. It is one of the most fragrant flowers in Florida. They bloom in the spring and give rise to oranges the following autumn or winter.

**STATE WILDFLOWER:
COREOPSIS
DESIGNATED IN 1991**



The Legislature made this designation after the colorful flowers were used extensively in roadside plantings and highway beautification programs.

Key lime pie was designated Florida's official state pie in 2006. Key limes are smaller and more tart than common limes and grow naturally throughout the Florida Keys.





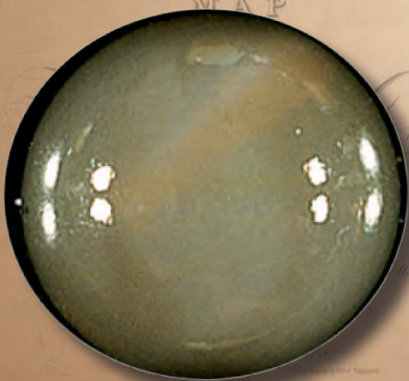
Florida designated the orange as the official state fruit in 2005. Orange juice is the state beverage. Citrus fruits, especially oranges, are a major part of Florida's economy.

STATE SHELL: HORSE CONCH DESIGNATED IN 1969



The horse conch is native to the marine waters around Florida and can grow up to two feet in length. The word 'conch' comes from the Greek word meaning 'shell.'

STATE GEM: MOONSTONE DESIGNATED IN 1970



Although the moonstone is not found anywhere in Florida, it serves as an important reminder of the first lunar landing mission in 1969, which launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

STATE STONE: AGATIZED CORAL DESIGNATED IN 1979



Coral is the outer skeleton in which tiny underwater animals, called polyps, encase themselves. Polyps combine their own carbon dioxide with calcium carbonate in warm seawater to produce coral. Agatized coral is found in three main Florida locations: Tampa Bay, the Econfiná River, and the Withlacoochee/Suwannee river beds.

Five Flags



The term "Five Flags over Florida" refers to the five nations that have exerted sovereignty over all or parts of Florida at various times in its history: Spain, France, Great Britain, the Confederate States of America, and the United States of America. Numerous other unofficial flags have also been flown in Florida during the course of its history.

Present State Flag - Adopted in 1900



Spain



1513

When Ponce de León landed in Florida, Spain did not have an official national flag, so they used the Castle and Lion flag of the King. This is considered Florida's first flag.



1565 - 1763

The Burgundian Saltire, or Cross of Burgundy, represented the first Spanish occupation of Florida after their defeat of the French in 1565.



1784 - 1821

Spain regained control of Florida from the British in 1784. Spain formally ceded Florida to the United States in 1821.

Over Florida

France



1564 - 1565

The French flag flew over the short-lived settlement of Fort Caroline near present-day Jacksonville.

Great Britain



1763 - 1784

Britain gained control of Florida from Spain in exchange for Havana, Cuba as part of the treaty to end the French and Indian War. Florida was then split into two parts: East Florida, with its capital in St. Augustine, and West Florida, with its capital in Pensacola.

Confederacy



1861 - 1865

The First National Flag was hoisted above the Capitol on the day Florida ratified the Constitution of the Confederate States of America in April 1861.

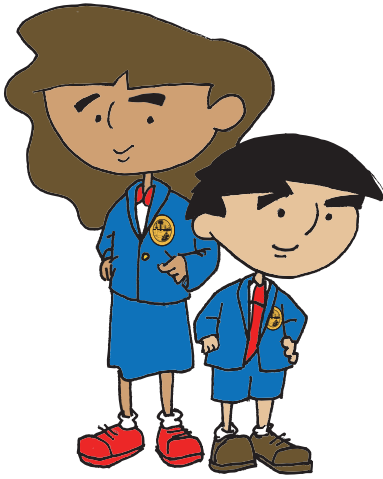
United States of America




1821 - present

When Spain formally ceded Florida to the U.S. in 1821, the first U.S. flag flown over Florida had 23 stars. When Florida officially became the 27th state in 1845, the U.S. flag had 27 stars, as shown here.

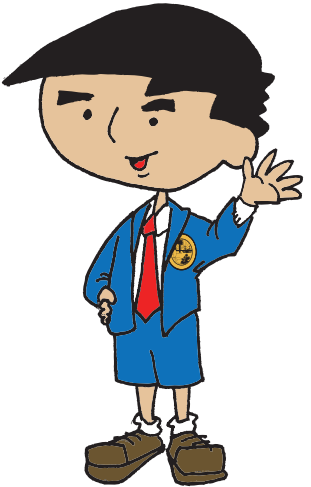
Page and Messenger Program



Each year, the Florida House of Representatives gives students a unique opportunity to participate in the legislative process through the Page and Messenger Program. Students from around the state are chosen to serve in the Florida House and see state government in action. For more information about the Page and Messenger Program, let's turn it over to Petey the Page and Molly the Messenger.



Hi, I'm Molly the Messenger! Messengers are students that are between the ages of 15-18. My typical day consists of running numerous errands throughout the Capitol complex, including picking up and delivering materials to representatives and legislative offices. My days are very busy, but the opportunity to sit in on committee meetings and watch session from the gallery is priceless. Now, here's Petey to tell you about being a Page.

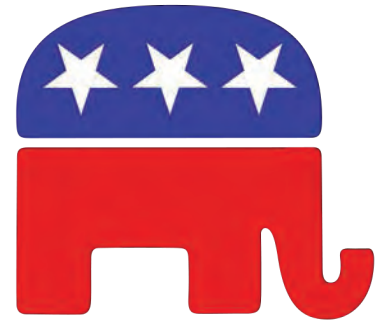


Thanks, Molly! My name is Petey and I am a Page. Pages are students who are between the ages of 12-14. I get to serve in the Chamber, with the representatives, when the House is in session. My duties include delivering messages and documents to representatives as well as completing other duties for representatives on the floor.

Each Representative has an opportunity to sponsor one Page and one Messenger during each regular session. Pages and Messengers serve at the Capitol for one week and are paid for their service. The selection process is determined by your Representative. Three signatures are needed for your application to be considered: the Representative who is sponsoring you, your school principal, and your parent/guardian. For more information about the Page and Messenger Program, contact your Representative or visit our website at www.MyFloridaHouse.gov



The Republican Party symbol is the elephant.



What are the Political Parties?

The members of the Legislature are divided into groups called political parties. The two major political parties are the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. The political party having the most members in the House is known as the majority party, while the political party that has less than a majority of members in the House is known as the minority party.



The Democratic Party symbol is the donkey.



House or Senate

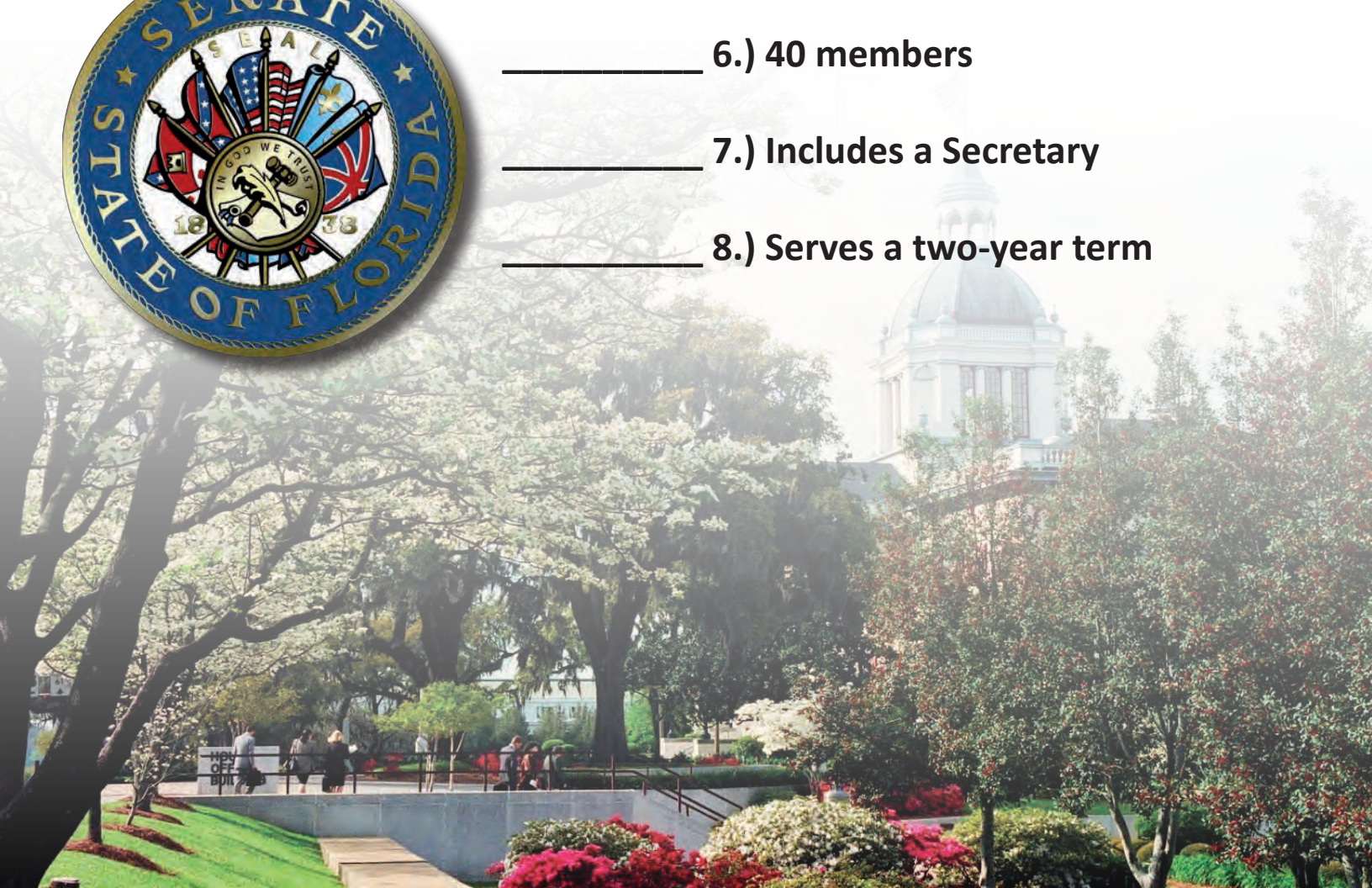
Choose House or Senate for the clues below using what you know.



- _____ 1.) 120 members
- _____ 2.) Serves a four-year term
- _____ 3.) Presiding officer is the President
- _____ 4.) Includes a Clerk
- _____ 5.) Presiding officer is the Speaker



- _____ 6.) 40 members
- _____ 7.) Includes a Secretary
- _____ 8.) Serves a two-year term



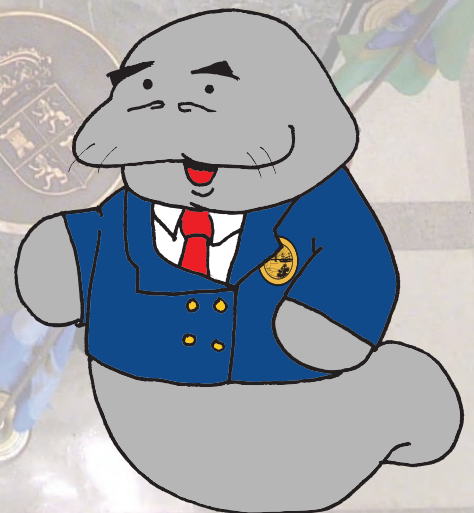
Whose Job is That?

The Florida Constitution states the powers of state government shall be divided into legislative, executive, and judicial branches. No person belonging to one branch shall exercise any powers belonging to the other branches.

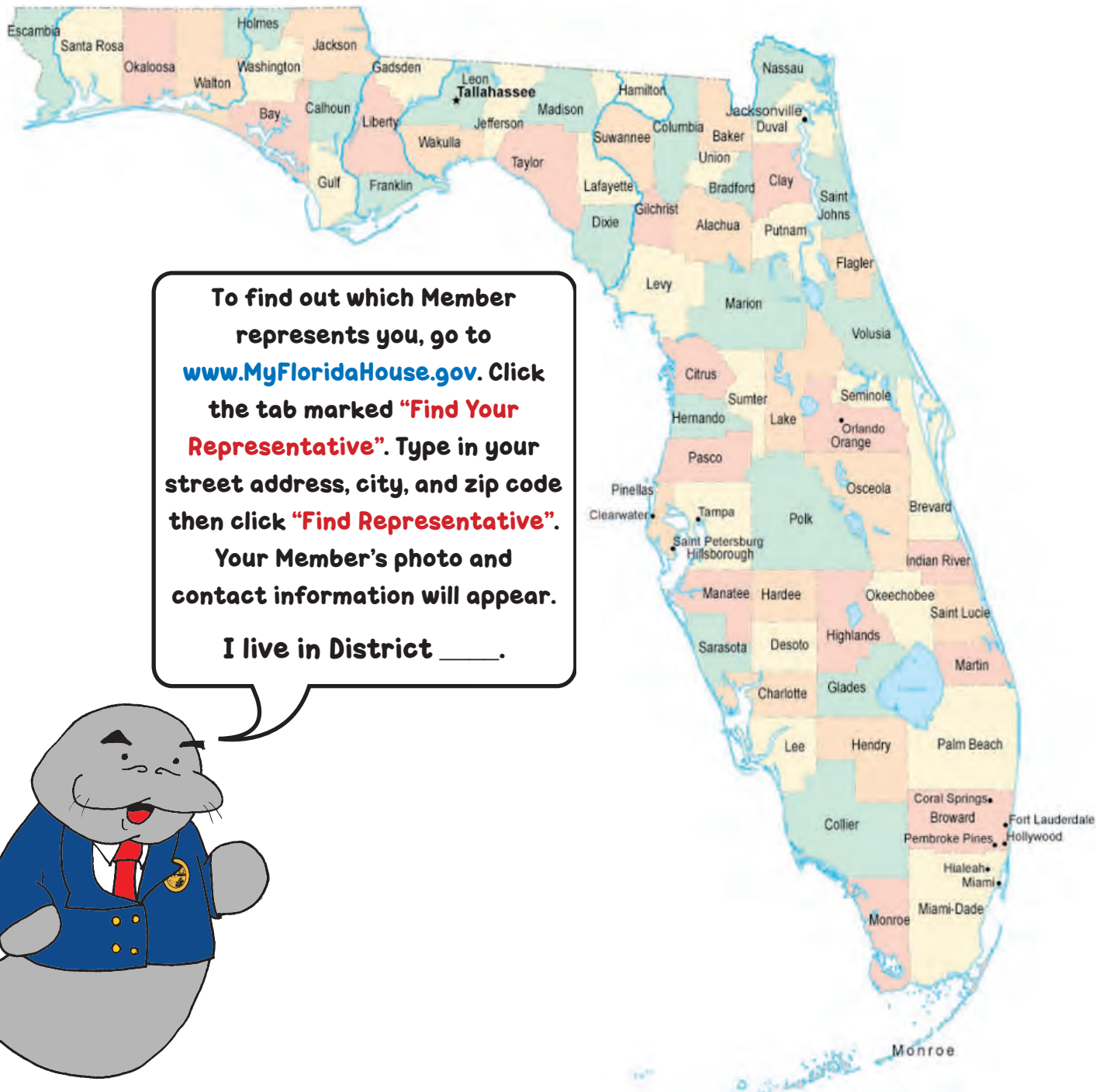
Do you know the responsibilities of the three branches of government? Place an "L" for Legislative, a "J" for Judicial, and an "E" for Executive next to the job each branch of Florida government is responsible for carrying out.

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ 1.) appoints state and county officials | _____ 7.) signs bills into law |
| _____ 2.) may veto a bill | _____ 8.) headed by the Governor |
| _____ 3.) may override a veto | _____ 9.) interprets the laws |
| _____ 4.) has power of judicial review | _____ 10.) makes rulings in cases brought to the court |
| _____ 5.) executes the laws | _____ 11.) makes the laws |
| _____ 6.) prepares the budget | _____ 12.) this branch consists of a Cabinet |

Hi, I'm Manny the Manatee and I am going to take you through the Facts and Fun game section. Be sure to check your answers on the last page of the book!

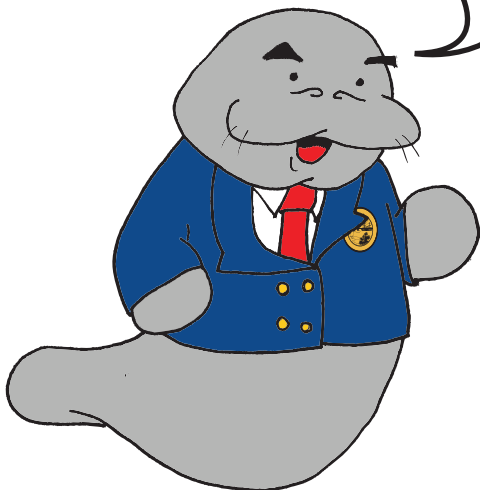


Find Your County



To find out which Member represents you, go to www.MyFloridaHouse.gov. Click the tab marked **“Find Your Representative”**. Type in your street address, city, and zip code then click **“Find Representative”**. Your Member’s photo and contact information will appear.

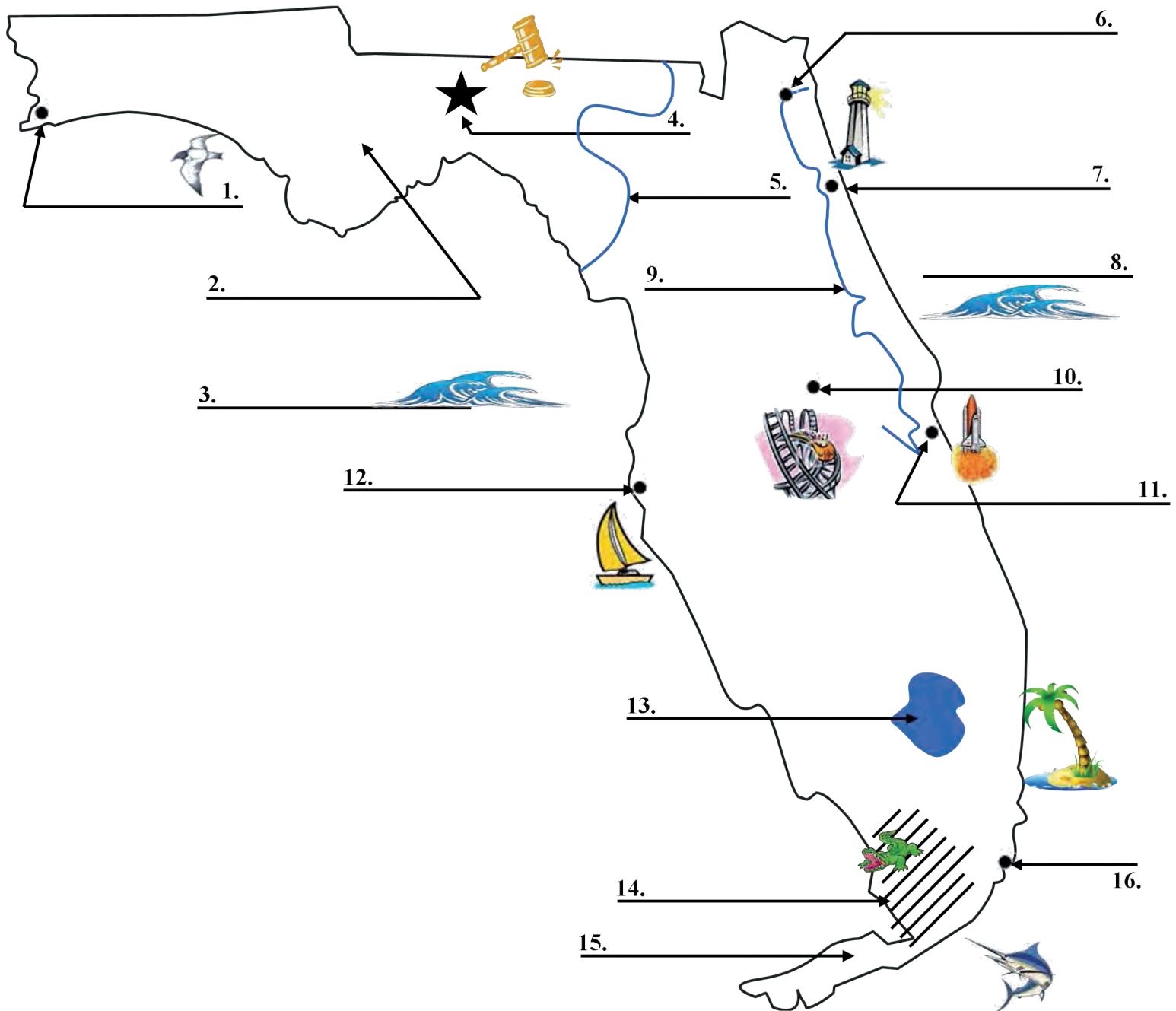
I live in District ____.



There are 67 counties in Florida.
(Look at the labeled map above and find the county in which you live.)

I live in _____ County.

Label Me Florida!



Word Bank:

Florida Keys • Panhandle • St. Augustine • Miami • Pensacola
Everglades • St. Johns River • Gulf of Mexico • Tallahassee
Orlando • Jacksonville • Kennedy Space Center • Lake Okeechobee
Tampa • Atlantic Ocean • Suwannee River

Legislative Terms

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

Act
Adjournment
Adoption
Agenda
Amendment
Appropriations
Bicameral
Bill
Bill History
Budget
Calendar
Caucus

Chair
Chamber
Citator
Claim Bill
Committee
Conferees
Convene
Council
Debate
Delegation
Democrat
District
Draft

Engrossing
Enrolled Bill
Fail
Floor
Florida
Gallery
Governor
House
Interim
Joint
Journal
Law
Legislation

Linked
Lobbyist
Local Bill
Majority
Meeting Notice
Member
Minority
Motion
Objection
Page
Party
Passage
Readings

Republican
Resolution
Rules
Senate
Sergeant
Sine Die
Speaker
Staff
Term Limits
Veto
Vote
Yield

Visit: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Glossary/Glossary.aspx>
to learn more about Legislative Terms.

Florida Fun Facts Quiz

1.) What is the oldest city in Florida?

- A.) Pensacola
- B.) Miami
- C.) St. Augustine
- D.) Tallahassee

2.) When a bill is passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor it becomes a _____?

- A.) Rule
- B.) Statute
- C.) Law
- D.) Amendment

3.) Which of the following is NOT a branch of the Florida government?

- A.) Legislative
- B.) Governor
- C.) Judicial
- D.) Executive

4.) How many members serve in the Florida House of Representatives?

- A.) 40
- B.) 50
- C.) 120
- D.) 100

5.) What is Florida's state nickname?

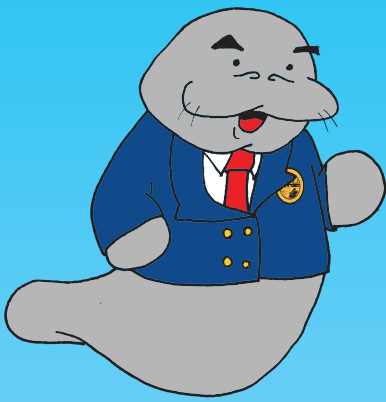
- A.) Beach State
- B.) Sunshine State
- C.) Citrus State
- D.) Tourism State

6.) What is Florida's state reptile?

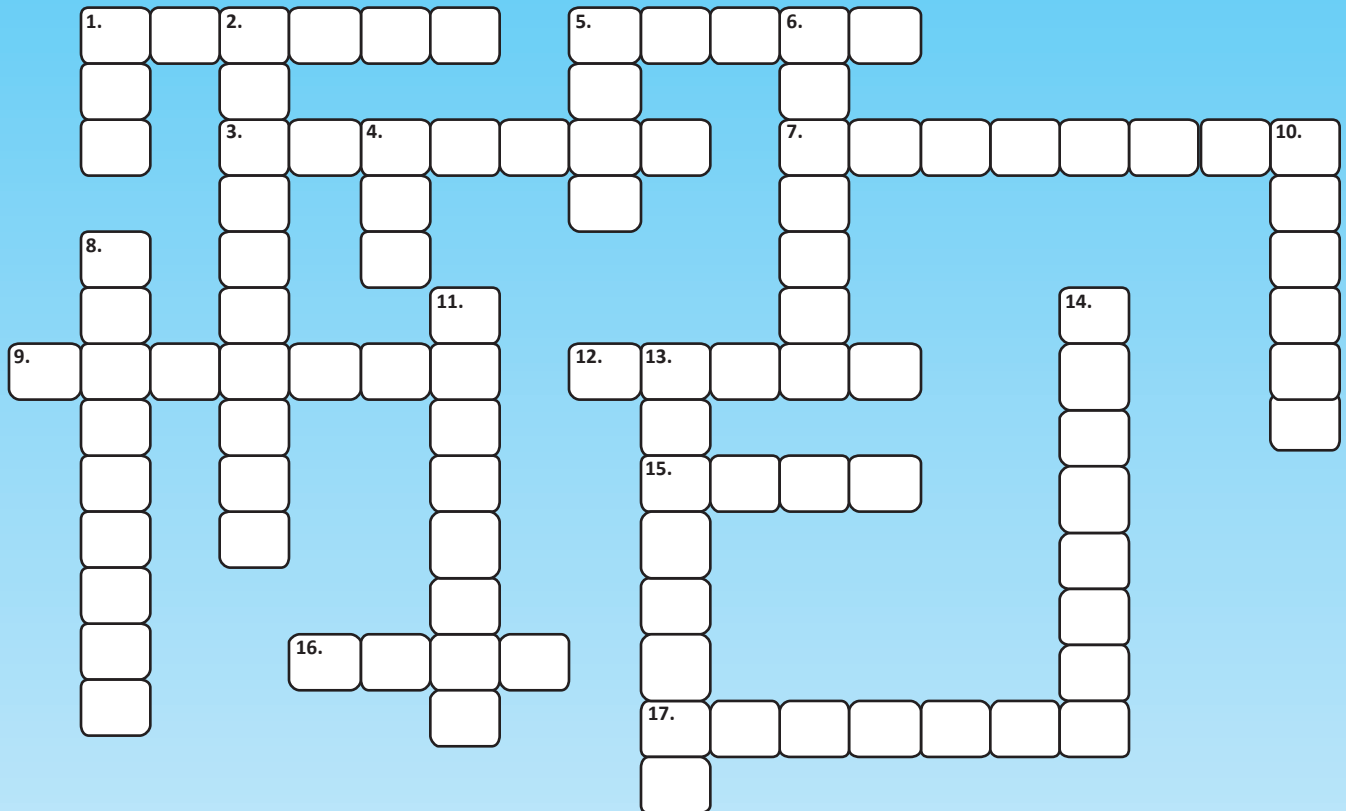
- A.) Rattlesnake
- B.) Sea Turtle
- C.) Tree Frog
- D.) Alligator



Did you know that the greatest recorded snowfall in Florida occurred on February 13, 1899? On that day, 4 inches of snowfall was measured at Lake Butler, Florida.



cross word



ACROSS

1. Listing of legislation to be heard
3. Seating area above the Chamber
5. Fund in a special account for a special purpose
7. A bill is _____ after it passes both houses and before it is signed by the Governor
9. Formal communications between the houses
12. Official record-keeper of the House
15. Formal idea for legislation
16. Student 12-14 years old who serves in the Chamber, with the members
17. Period of time when the Legislature meets

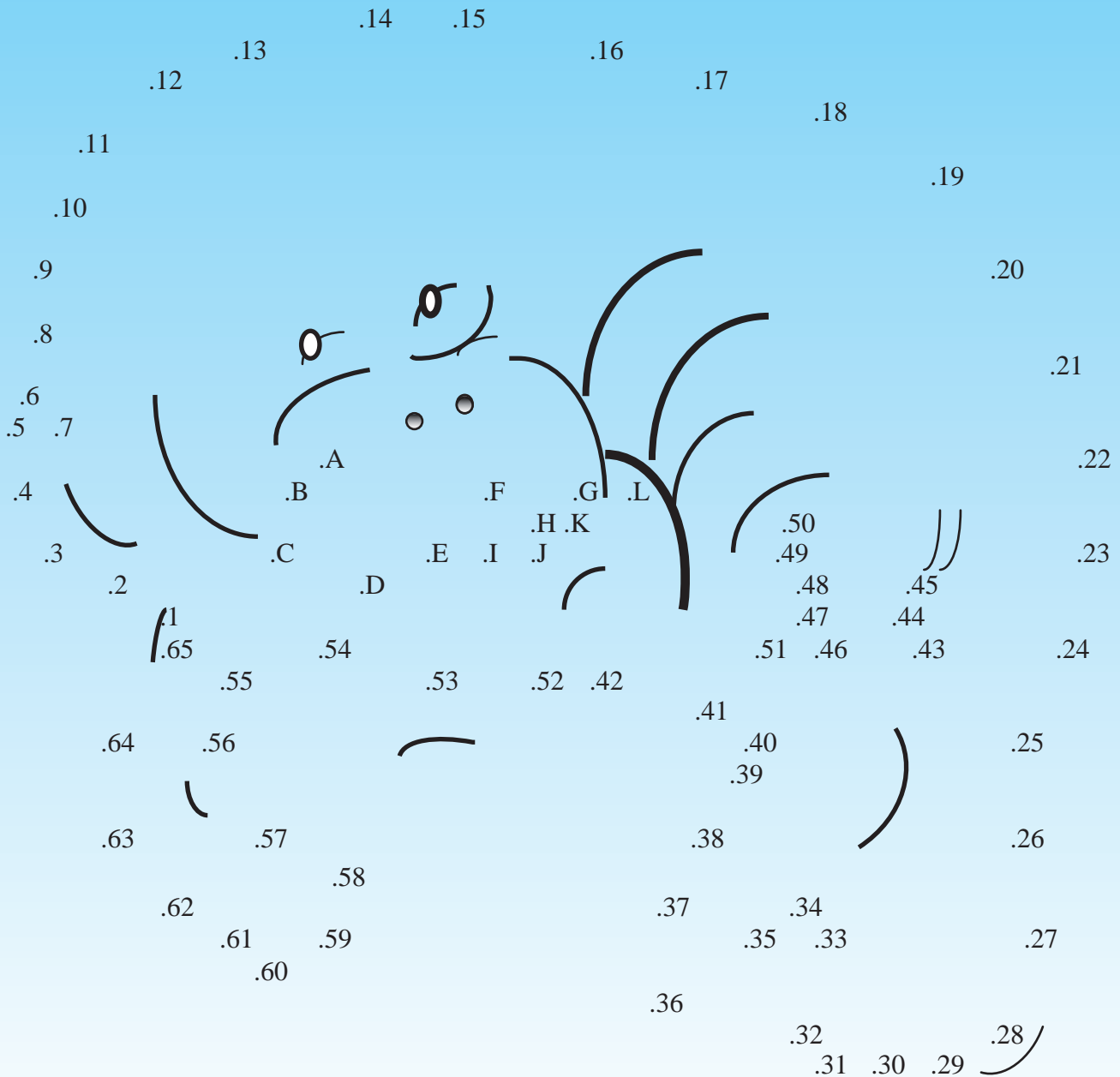
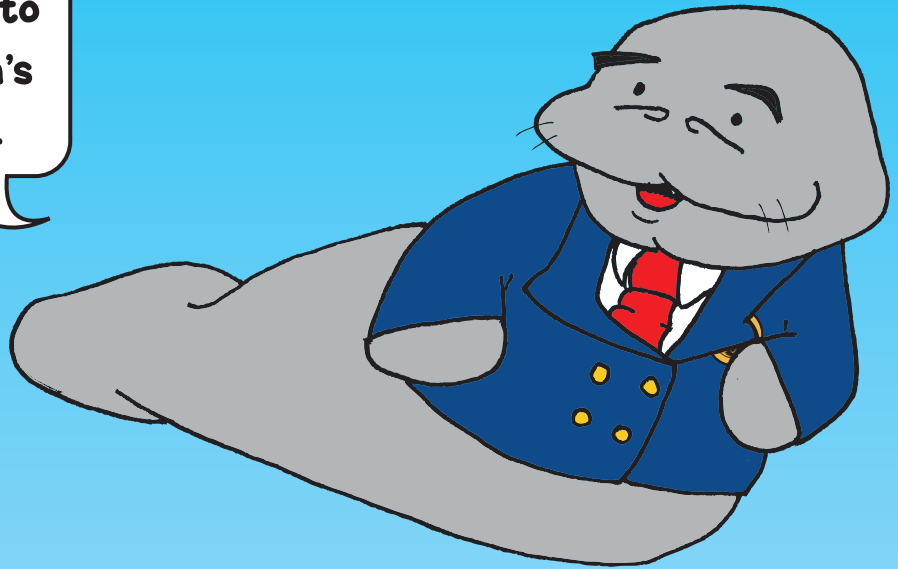
DOWN

1. Bill that has passed both houses
2. Adds adopted floor amendments to the bill
4. An act that has been approved by the Governor
5. Period of time a legislator is elected
6. Presiding officer of the House of Representatives
8. Changes a bill or other proposed legislation
10. Argument in opposition or support of legislation
11. Each bill must have three before it can be voted on
13. A person registered with the Legislature who encourages the passage or defeat of a bill
14. Favorable action on an amendment or motion

Word Bank

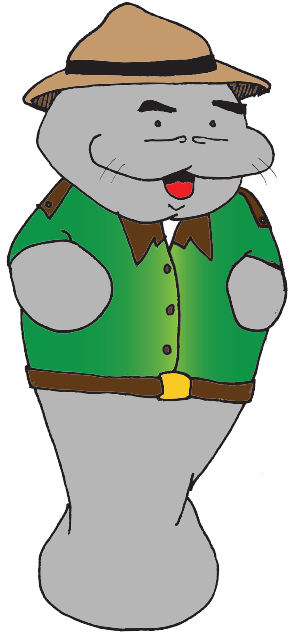
Act • Readings • Gallery • Amendment • Bill • Trust • Lobbyist
 Engrossing • Enrolled • Agenda • Law • Term • Clerk • Page
 Adoption • Session • Speaker • Message • Debate

Connect the dots to see one of Florida's wildlife symbols.



Manatees are slow-moving and can live to be 60 years old.

Florida's Endangered Species



Let's see how much you know about some of Florida's Endangered Species.

A



Florida Panther

B



Key Deer

Which fact is about the **(A)** Florida panther or **(B)** Key deer?

_____ 1.) Florida's State Animal

_____ 2.) Feed on plants

_____ 3.) Has little fear of humans

_____ 4.) Lifespan of 10-15 years

_____ 5.) Male, Height: 30 inches;
Weight: 55-75 pounds

_____ 6.) Population fewer than 100
adults and sub-adults

_____ 7.) One of the most endangered
mammals on earth

_____ 8.) Only live in South Florida

_____ 9.) Male, Height: 23-27 inches; Length: 7
feet from nose to tail; Weight: 130 pounds

_____ 10.) Males grow antlers

_____ 11.) Easily swim between islands

_____ 12.) Automobiles are the number one
killer of this animal



Bald Eagle

Is the National Bird.

May live as long as 30 years.

Eats mainly fish.

Wingspan ranges from 72-90 inches.

Has 7,000 feathers.

Is a federal offense to harm.

Once paired, they remain together until one dies.

Was considered endangered or "threatened" from 1967 to 2007.

There are an estimated 9,789 breeding pairs.

Main causes of death:
Gunshot wounds
Electrocution
Poisoning
Vehicles
Starvation



Wood Stork

Is a large wading bird.

Is the only stork found in North America.

Can be found in coastal areas.

Wingspan ranges up to 66 inches, and can glide for miles.

Eats snakes and fish.

There are an estimated 8,000 breeding pairs.

Often pairs for life.

Both male and female take turns incubating the eggs and taking care of the young.

They are on the Endangered Species List because of loss of habitat.



Scrub Jay

Can only be found in Florida and is heavily sought after by bird-watchers.

Feeds on caterpillars, acorns, seeds, peanuts, insects, tree frogs, turtles, snakes, lizards, and young mice.

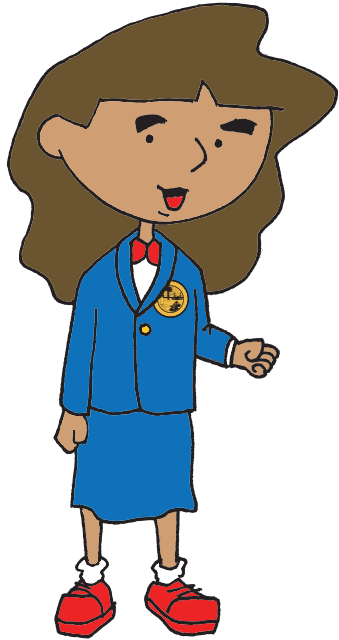
They cache thousands of acorns a year, burying them beneath the surface of the sand.

A breeding pair establishes a permanent territory of about 25 acres and are mates for life.

Families stay together for years and are very territorial. They do not adapt to another scrub after their established homes have been compromised. Relocating them due to increased human habitat does not work.

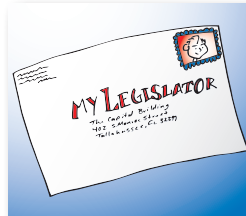
The last population count was approximately 2,000.

Get Involved!



Being a Page or Messenger is a great way to witness firsthand how our government works. But I want to know what other ways I can get involved, since I am not old enough to vote. How else can I get involved, Petey?

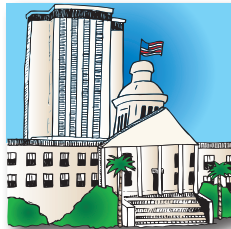
Great question, Molly! There are still many ways you can stay involved! You can:



Write or email your legislator



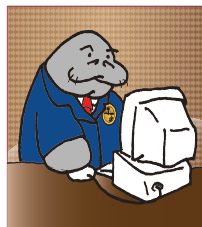
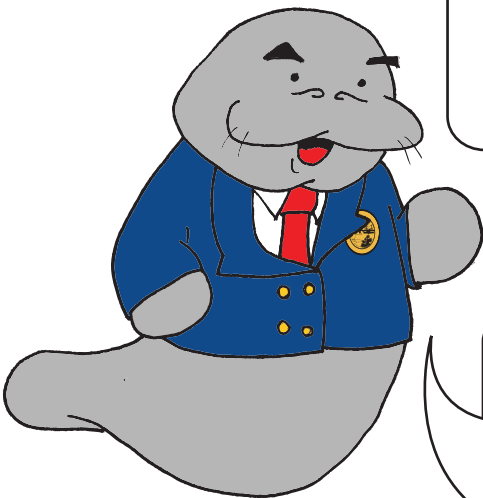
Go to town hall meetings



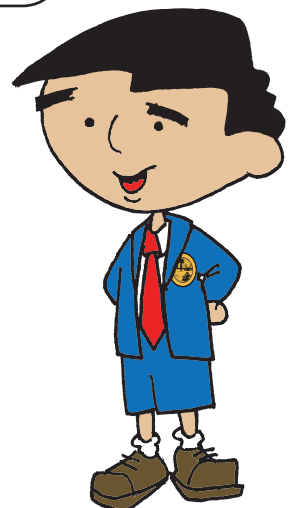
Visit the Capitol



Watch the Legislature on the Florida Channel



Also, if you are interested in finding out more information on how to get involved, please visit the House website at www.MyFloridaHouse.gov



Fun Facts Answers Page

House or Senate?

House:

- 120 members
- Presiding officer is the Speaker
- Includes a Clerk
- Serves a two-year term

Senate:

- 40 members
- Presiding officer is the President
- Includes a Secretary
- Serves a four-year term

Whose Job is That? Quiz

1. E
2. E
3. L
4. J
5. E
6. L
7. E
8. E
9. J
10. J
11. L
12. E

Florida Fun Facts Quiz

1. C
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. D

Label Me Florida!

1. Pensacola
2. Panhandle
3. Gulf of Mexico
4. Tallahassee
5. Suwannee River
6. Jacksonville
7. St. Augustine
8. Atlantic Ocean
9. St. Johns River
10. Orlando
11. Kennedy Space Center
12. Tampa
13. Lake Okeechobee
14. Everglades
15. Florida Keys
16. Miami

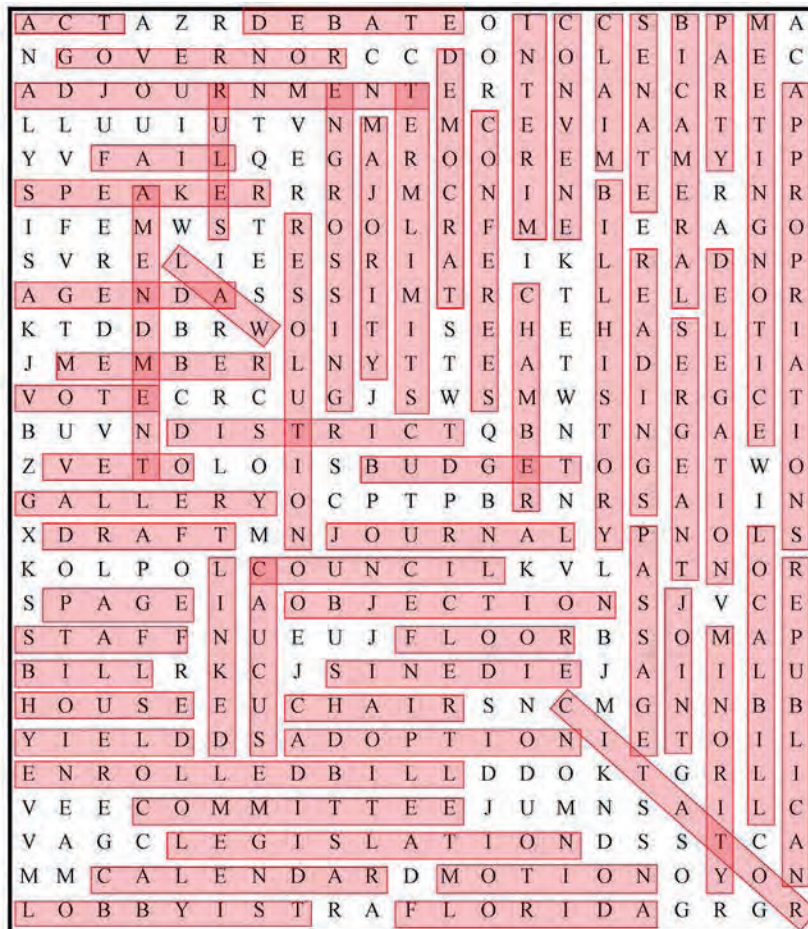
Cross Word

Across:

1. Agenda
3. Gallery
5. Trust
7. Enrolled
9. Messages
12. Clerk
15. Bill
16. Page
17. Session

Down:

1. Act
2. Engrossing
4. Law
5. Term
6. Speaker
8. Amendment
10. Debate
11. Readings
13. Lobbyist
14. Adoption



Florida's Endangered Species Quiz

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. B
11. B
12. B



Copies of this activities book may be obtained upon request from:

Office of the Clerk
House of Representatives
513 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Designed and produced by:
The Office of the Clerk

Visit us online at:
www.MyFloridaHouse.gov