

FROST ART MUSEUM



Survivor, 2019
Carlton Ward Jr.

THE TEACHER RESOURCE PACKET

ABOUT THE ARTIST

THE ARTIST



Carlton Ward Jr.

National Geographic Explorer and photographer Carlton Ward Jr. has spent almost two decades advocating for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, a network of public and private lands that provide a lifeline for the panther. Ward's family has lived in Florida for eight generations which is a big influence as to why he takes photographs of Florida landscapes. He started his career at the Smithsonian institution in Central Africa which led to his first book, *The Edge of Africa*, and a photography exhibit with the United Nations.

In 2010 he Founded the Florida Wildlife Corridor project in 2010 and *Florida Wild* in 2013. Ward has worked on Path of the Panther project since 2016 has been supported by grants and partners. Path of the Panther hopes to inspire a public and political movement to save the original Florida wildlife through the story of the endangered Florida panther. He and his team spent six years working with camera traps to capture photographs for this exhibit, which are also featured in the April 2021 issue of *National Geographic Magazine* and the new *National Geographic* book *Path of the Panther*. His photographs are widely exhibited, collected, and published in newspapers and magazines

PATH OF THE PANTHER



Perserverance , 2019
Carlton Ward Jr.

The panther is the state animal of Florida, the last big cat surviving east of the Mississippi River, and an icon of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. A subspecies of the puma, the panther was driven to extinction throughout its range in the eastern United States except for a small remnant population that persisted in Florida's Everglades. Panther numbers had dwindled to fewer than 20 individuals by the 1980s, but heroic conservation efforts have helped panthers come back to nearly 200 today. The biggest obstacle for the panther's continued recovery is access to enough of its historic territory throughout Florida and adjoining states.

Rising north out of the Everglades, the tale of the Florida panther has grown from the unlikely survival of a rare cat to a story of hope for all wild Florida. The panther is now a symbol of a call to action to conserve the Florida Wildlife Corridor – a network of public and private land that connects the panther's current range in south Florida to suitable habitat throughout Florida and beyond.

National Geographic Explorer and photographer Carlton Ward Jr. has spent almost two decades advocating for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, a network of public and private lands that provide a lifeline for the panther. In 2015, he launched the Path of the Panther project with the National Geographic Society and moved his Airstream trailer to the Everglades. He and his team spent six years working with camera traps to capture photographs for this exhibit, which are also featured in the April 2021 issue of National Geographic Magazine and the new National Geographic book Path of the Panther.

Visit the **PathofthePanther.com** for more information about the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

NEW HOPE

This is the first female panther documented north of the Caloosahatchee River in the northern Everglades since 1973. She provides new hope that her species, no longer isolated to the southern tip of Florida, can reclaim its historic range throughout the Florida Wildlife Corridor. This historic image of the panther and her cubs was captured in January 2018 by a specialized camera trap at Babcock Ranch State Preserve.



Perseverance, 2019
Carlton Ward Jr.

PATH OF THE PANTHER



Path of the Panther Map

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR



Florida Wildlife Corridor, 2015
Carlton Ward Jr.

In addition to the Florida panther, the Florida Wildlife Corridor is home to thousands of species. These swallow-tailed kites, shown here roosting high in the cypress trees near Lake Okeechobee, utilize protected and working lands in southern Florida as a stopover point in their annual migration from the southeastern United States to Brazil.

THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR



**Florida Panther Crossing under a corridor.
Carlton Ward Jr.**

After decades of work from conservationists, scientists, politicians, and many others, the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act was signed into law following unanimous bipartisan support by the Florida legislature on June 29, 2021.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor comprises nearly 18 million acres of contiguous wilderness and working lands crucial to the survival of many of Florida's 131 imperiled animals. In addition to protecting wildlife, conserving wild spaces is crucial to mitigating climate change, as studies show that natural spaces play a significant role in reducing greenhouse gases and guarding against the impacts of increased temperatures.

Source:

The Florida Wildlife Corridor

<https://floridawildlifecorridor.org/about/about-the-corridor/>

CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER

Florida's once free-flowing Caloosahatchee River is now a dredged canal that runs from Lake Okeechobee, Florida's largest freshwater lake, to the Gulf of Mexico near Ft. Myers. This wide canal became a dividing line for panthers in the state. No female panthers had been seen north of the river since 1973. In 2016, a pioneering female panther was documented north of the canal for the first time in 43 years, giving new hope for panthers to reclaim more of their historic territory throughout Florida.



Caloosahatchee River, 2018
Carlton Ward Jr.

Panther Clan of the Seminole Tribe

YMorgan Yates, a member of the panther clan of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, walks beneath her favorite wild grapefruit tree in a traditional Seminole dress near her home at the Brighton Reservation in southern Florida. In the creation story of the Seminole Tribe, the panther was the first being to walk the Earth. For many generations, Seminole and Miccosukee people have served as caretakers of panther habitat and honored the panther as a guardian of the land in their culture.



**YMorgan Yates, a member of the panther clan of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 2017
Carlton Ward Jr.**

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

"Wild Voices: Telling Conservation Stories Through Mixed Media"

Essential Questions

- How can art be used to tell stories about the natural world and inspire conservation?
- What role does the Florida panther play in its ecosystem, and why is it considered a keystone species?
- How does Carlton Ward Jr. use photography to create emotional connections to wildlife and habitats?
- In what ways can visual storytelling influence people's views on environmental issues?
- How is the Florida panther connected to other animals, plants, and people in its environment?
- Why is it important to protect endangered species like the Florida panther?

Discuss: Discuss the photography of Carlton Ward Jr. Reflect on connections between environmental themes such as habitat loss, endangered species protection, and the importance of preserving ecosystems.

Connect: Visit, tour, and discuss the **Path of the Panther** by Carlton Ward Jr. at the Frost Art Museum. Use Close Looking questions and expand on this dynamic artwork.

Studio Experience: "Wild Voices: Telling Conservation Stories Through Mixed Media"
Develop an artwork that tells a conservation story through mixed media (e.g., combining painting, photography, and text).

Materials:

- Images from Path of the Panther for inspiration (digital or printed)
- Sketchbooks
- Pencils, markers, watercolors, collage materials
- 12 x 18 or 18 x 24 heavy weight drawing paper or board
- Digital tools: cameras or smartphones, photo editing software (optional)
- Map of Florida ecosystems to use in collage/mixed media

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

"Wild Voices: Telling Conservation Stories Through Mixed Media" Studio Experience

Step 1: Introduce Carlton Ward Jr.'s Path of the Panther. Explore and do Close Looking Activity with the exhibition images and discuss the themes of storytelling, composition, and conservation. Analyze how Ward uses light, perspective, and subject matter to evoke emotion. Have students create a concept sketch of an artwork inspired by the Florida panther or its habitat.

STEAM Connection: Discuss how trail cameras work and their role in capturing wildlife.

Step 2: Revisit Carlton Ward Jr.'s Path of the Panther exhibition images and demonstrate how to create a Mixed Media artwork composition. Students will develop a mixed-media piece combining painting, photography, collage materials, and written elements (e.g., quotes about conservation). Assist students with preparation of the imagery they will include in their Mixed Media artwork.

STEAM Connection: Examine the geometry of the panther's anatomy and how it relates to artistic proportions.

Step 3: Have students use cameras or smartphones to create a photo series of their local environment, inspired by Ward's storytelling style. Grades 9-12 students can edit their photos digitally to enhance lighting, contrast, and focus. Have students print their photos to incorporate into their Mixed Media artwork.

STEAM Connection: Explore how technology (like trail cameras) is used to study wildlife and solve conservation challenges.

Step 4: Have students add text, stories, drawings, graphics and their own writings. Discuss overlapping and composition. Have students layout their imagery. The teacher should assist students with composition layout before they secure their collage pieces. Have students secure their pieces and if time permits, they can add final details.

Step 5: Have students complete the details on their Mixed Media piece. Student will present their Mixed Media artwork to the class for a brief critique, explaining the inspiration and message behind their work. H

Step 6: Assessment: Display the Mixed Media artworks. Have students include a discussion on how their art relates to conservation. **Writing Prompt:** Students write a brief response to the question: "How can art inspire change in the way we view and protect wildlife?"

Have students participate in a group critique using TAG: T – Tell the Artists Something You Like; A – Ask the Artist a Question; G – Give the Artist a Suggestion. Have the students write a poem related to their paintings.

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Art Vocabulary: Composition, Contrast, Focal Point, Layering, Mixed Media, Perspective, Symbolism, Texture, and Value.

Elements of Art and Principles of Design: Balance, Color, Emphasis, Form, Line, Movement, Proportion, Rhythm, Shape, Space, Texture, Unity, and Value

Visual Arts Benchmarks (Grades 4-12)

- VA.4-12.C.1.1
- VA.4-12.S.1.1
- VA.4-12.S.2.1
- VA.4-12.P.10.1
- VA.4-12.O.3.1
- VA.4-12.H.2.1
- VA.4-12.F.2.2
- VA.4-12.C.3.1

Math Benchmarks (Grades 4-12)

- MA.4.GR.1.1
- MA.6.GR.2.1
- MA.9-12.G.1.2
- MA.5.M.2.1
- MA.7.DP.1.1

Language Arts Benchmarks (Grades 4-12)

- ELA.4.R.2.1
- ELA.6.R.3.2
- ELA.9.R.3.3
- ELA.5.W.1.3
- ELA.7.W.3.4
- ELA.9.W.1.1
- ELA.4.SL.1.3
- ELA.8.SL.2.1

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Abstract Aerial Map Drawing and Collage

Essential Questions:

- How do aerial maps help us understand the habitats and movement patterns of the Florida panther?
- How have human developments (e.g., roads, cities, agriculture) impacted the Florida panther's natural habitat?
- What can aerial maps reveal about the connections between different ecosystems in Florida?
- How can we use map data and technology to propose solutions for protecting wildlife corridors and preventing habitat fragmentation? (such as satellite imagery and GPS tracking) play in wildlife conservation?
- How can artists and scientists use aerial perspectives to tell stories about environmental conservation?

Materials:

Aerial maps of Florida wildlife corridors & panther migration routes

Watercolor paper or canvas

Acrylic paints, watercolors, or ink

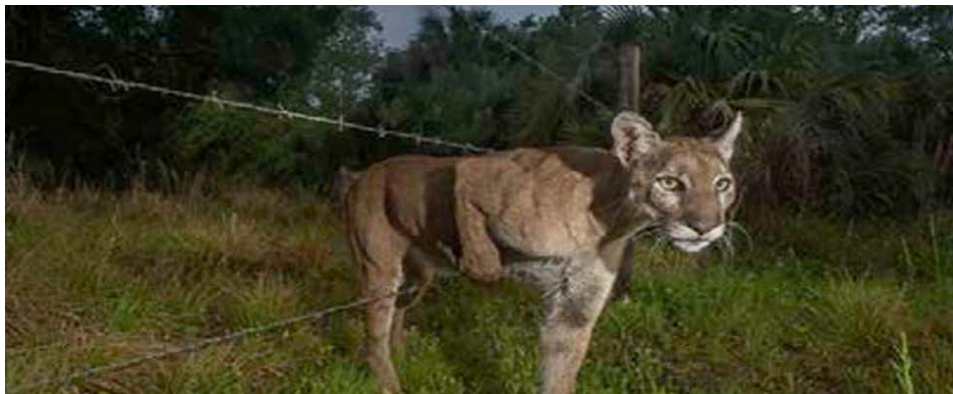
Texture mediums (gel medium, sand, modeling paste)

Collage materials (newspapers, maps, fabric, etc.)

Fine-tip markers, colored pencils, or pastels

Mod Podge or glue for layering

Brushes, palette knives, sponges



Wide-Ranging Panthers, 2020
Carlton Ward Jr.

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

“Abstract Aerial Map Drawing and Collage” Studio Experience

Step 1: Introduce Carlton Ward Jr.’s Path of the Panther. Explore and do a Close Looking Activity with the exhibition images of the Florida Panther habitat and wildlife corridors. Discuss habitat loss, conservation efforts, and the importance of wildlife connectivity. Students examine satellite/aerial images of Florida’s forests, wetlands, and urban areas. Have students create a concept sketches of aerial maps denoting the Path of the Panther.

Step 2: Revisit Carlton Ward Jr.’s Path of the Panther exhibition images. Compare and contract abstract aerial artworks (e.g., Georgia O’Keeffe’s sky paintings, contemporary map-inspired art). Have students create thumbnail sketches of an abstract map based on a panther’s journey. Ensure the students focus on lines, shapes, and color schemes representing land, water, roads, and natural barriers.

Step 3: Have students use their drawings and sketches to create their Aerial Map designs. Demonstrate mixed media composition strategies. Have students paint the background using acrylic washes or watercolors to mimic landforms. Have students add textures with sand, paper, or gel medium to create depth. Then, students should use cut-out map pieces, fabric, or printed textures for roads, rivers, and urban areas to layer onto their aerial map designs.

Step 4: Discus details and the use of hidden messages in the composition. Have students use markers, colored pencils, or pastels for paths, barriers, and movement patterns. Students should highlight areas where wildlife crossings or conservation efforts are needed.

Step 5: Have students present their Aerial Map Design/Collage artwork to the class, explaining the inspiration and message behind their work. Have students write a brief reflection on how their artwork represents the Florida Panther’s path. **Writing Prompt:** Students write a brief response to the question: “How does their artwork represents the Florida Panther’s path.?”

Step 6: Assessment: Display the Aerial Map Drawing/Collage artworks. Have students participate in a group critique using TAG: T – Tell the Artists Something You Like; A – Ask the Artist a Question; G – Give the Artist a Suggestion. Have the students write a poem related to their paintings.

EDUCATION ACTIVITY



Log Jump, 2017
Carlton Ward, Jr

Art Vocabulary: Aerial Map, Composition, Contrast, Focal Point, Layering, Mixed Media, Perspective, Symbolism, Texture, and Value.

Elements of Art and Principles of Design: Balance Color, Emphasis, Form, Line, Movement, Proportion, Rhythm Shape, Space, Texture, Unity, and Value

Visual Arts Benchmarks (Grades 5-12)

- VA.4-12.C.1.1
- VA.4-12.S.1.1
- VA.4-12.S.2.1
- VA.4-12.P.10.1
- VA.4-12.H.2.1
- VA.4-12.F.2.2

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Symbolic Portraits of the Florida Panther



New Hope, 2018
Carlton Ward, Jr.

Essential Questions:

- How do aerial maps help us understand the habitats and movement patterns of the Florida panther?
- How can artists and scientists use aerial perspectives to tell stories about environmental conservation?
- In what ways do aerial maps influence conservation policies and land-use planning?
- What artistic techniques can be used to represent landscapes and wildlife corridors in aerial-inspired artwork?

Materials:

Aerial maps of Florida wildlife corridors & panther migration routes

Drawing paper, watercolor paper or canvas

Acrylic paints, watercolors, pastels or ink

Pencils, colored pencils, fine tip markers

Texture mediums (gel medium, sand, modeling pastels)

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

“Symbolic Portraits of the Florida Panther” Studio Experience

Step 1: Introduce Carlton Ward Jr.’s Path of the Panther. Explore and do a Close Looking Activity with the exhibition images of the Florida Panther habitat and wildlife corridors. Discuss habitat loss, conservation efforts, and the importance of wildlife connectivity. Explore the panther’s symbolism in Florida’s ecosystem and Indigenous culture. Students examine Ward’s portraits of the Panther. Have students develop sketches of the Panther.

Step 2: Revisit Carlton Ward Jr.’s Path of the Panther exhibition images. Compare and contrast abstract Panther portraits from Ward and other National Geographic photographers. Have students select aerial maps to use as a background for their Panther portraits. Have students develop their Panther portrait drawings in pencil.

Step 3: Have students brainstorm symbols representing the panther’s strength (e.g., trees for resilience, roads for obstacles). Have students use a variety of materials to work on their Panther portraits. Have students transfer their Panther portraits integrating these symbols into the panther’s fur, eyes, background, or body language. Ensure students use a realistic or abstract style to portray the panther.

Step 4: Discuss details and the use of hidden messages in the composition. Have students use markers, colored pencils, or pastels to add messages to their portrait paintings. Students should highlight areas in the background in order to balance the composition.

Step 5: Have students present their Panther portraits explaining the inspiration and message behind their work. Have students write a brief reflection on how their artwork represents the Florida Panther’s path. **Writing Prompt:** Have students write a short artist statement explaining symbolism and conservation connections.

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Art Vocabulary: Aerial Map: Composition, Portrait, Mixed Media, Proportion, Symbolism, and Value.

Elements of Art and Principles of Design: Color, Emphasis, Form, Line, Movement, Proportion, Shape, Space, Texture, Unity, and Value

Visual Arts Standards (Grades 4-12)

- VA.4-12.C.1.1
- VA.4-12.S.1.1
- VA.4-12.S.2.1
- VA.4-12.P.10.1
- VA.4-12.H.2.1
- VA.4-12.F.2.2

Science Standards (Grades 4-12)

- SC.4.L.17.4
- SC.7.L.17.3
- SC.912.L.17.8
- SC.5.N.1.6
- SC.912.L.17.16



Wading Panther, 2019
Carlton Ward Jr.

Math Standards (Grades 4-12)

- MA.4.GR.1.1
- MA.6.GR.2.1
- MA.912.G.2.3
- MA.5.AR.2.1
- MA.8.AR.3.1

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Eco-Prints: Nature's Mark on Conservation

Essential Questions:

- How does the Florida Panther depend on its natural habitat for survival?
- What impact do human activities have on Florida's ecosystems and wildlife?
- How can art be used as a tool for conservation awareness and activism?
- In what ways do natural materials (such as leaves and soil) tell a story about the environment?
- How does eco-printing symbolize the mark that wildlife and nature leave on the land?

Materials:

Leaves, bark, plants from local environments

Watercolor paper or fabric

Natural dyes (turmeric, beetroot, coffee) or acrylic paint

Ez-cut printing blocks

Brayers & rollers for printmaking

Pressing tools (spoons, blocks, or printmaking presses)

Step 1: Introduce Carlton Ward Jr.'s Path of the Panther. Explore and do Close Looking Activity with the exhibition images of the Florida Panther habitat, wildlife corridors, landscape. Discuss habitat loss, conservation efforts, and the importance of wildlife connectivity to nature in the panthers environment, the landscape of the corridors and native plants. Have students create a series of sketches of nature and native plants found in the wildlife corridor.

Step 2: Revisit Carlton Ward Jr.'s Path of the Panther exhibition images. Have students research and select native plants to incorporate into their eco print. Demonstrate to students how to create eco prints using ez-cut printing blocks or cuttings of native plants. using natural dyes, or acrylic paints.

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Eco-Prints: Nature's Mark on Conservation

Step 3: Students will use watercolor paper or fabric as a background for their eco prints. Students should arrange leaves and textures in a meaningful composition. Teacher should assist the students individually to ensure their compositions are strong and work well with the ez-cut printing block designs and the native plant cuttings. Students will apply natural dyes or acrylic paint onto the leaves, then, press onto the surface using rollers or hand pressure. Have students experiment with layering and overlapping textures.

Step 4: Have students present their eco prints. **Writing Prompt:** Have students write a prose or narrative poem on how natural elements "leave their mark" like wildlife in a fragile ecosystem.

Art Vocabulary: Aerial map, biodiversity, conservation, eco-printing, ecosystem, endangered species, fragmentation, habitat, layering, native species, negative space, organic materials, and sustainable art.

Elements of Art and Principles of Design: Balance, Color, Contrast, Emphasis, Line, Pattern, Repetition, Shape, Space, Texture, and Unity.

Visual Arts Standards (Grades 5-12)

- VA.5.S.1.2
- VA.68.S.3.3
- VA.68.F.3.3
- VA.912.O.3.1
- VA.912.C.2.2

Science Standards (Grades 5-12)

- SC.5.L.15.1
- SC.5.L.17.1
- SC.5.E.7.2
- SC.5.N.1.1
- SC.7.L.17.2
- SC.912.L.17.8

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Storytelling with the Stars The Path of the Panther Clan

Essential Questions:

- How do different cultures use storytelling to explain natural phenomena?
- What role do constellations play in myths and legends?
- How can we create myths based on observable patterns in the night sky?
- Why do the positions of constellations appear to change over time?

Materials:

- Star charts or constellation maps (print or digital)
- Excerpts of indigenous myths (e.g., Seminole or Panther Clan-related stories)
- Paper and writing utensils
- Projector or smartboard (optional)

Session 1: Discuss with students the constellations as described by the Panther Clan of Florida. If available, invite a guest speaker from a local indigenous group to discuss traditional storytelling. Ask students what they know about constellations and storytelling. Introduce the idea that different cultures have unique stories about the stars, including the Panther Clan of Florida. Share with the students an indigenous Florida myth about the stars, discussing its meaning and connection to nature. Discuss with students how constellations are formed and why they appear to move. Display a star chart featuring constellations visible in Florida's night sky. Discuss how different cultures interpret the same groupings of stars differently. Have students develop a poem related to the constellations.

Session 2: Review with students the stories of the Panther Clan of Florida and the constellations they describe in their poems, prose, and stories of the night sky. Have students select a constellation from the Florida night sky. Direct students to brainstorm what their constellation could represent if they were creating their own myth. Assist students with the basic elements of storytelling (characters, setting, problem, and resolution). Have students write a short myth that explains how their chosen constellation came to be. Encourage student to use descriptive language and cultural elements inspired by indigenous storytelling traditions.

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Storytelling with the Stars The Path of the Panther Clan

Session 3: Allow students time for peer sharing or small group readings. Students can present their myths to the class or illustrate their stories alongside their written work. **Oral Assessment:** Facilitate a brief discussion reflecting on what they learned about storytelling and the stars.

Assessment: Use a rubric to assess creativity, clarity, and incorporation of learned elements. Completion of a short myth incorporating a constellation. Participation in discussions and brainstorming activities. Students ability to explain a constellation's movement and significance in different cultures.

Language Arts Standards (Grades 4-5)

LAFS.4.W.3.3

LAFS.5.RI.3.7

Science Standards (Grades 4-5)

SC.4.E.5.1

SC.5.E.5.3



Longleaf Pines, 2012
Carlton Ward Jr.

RESOURCES

Defenders of Wildlife

<https://defenders.org/wildlife/florida-panther>

Everglades Holiday Park

<https://www.evergladesholidaypark.com/attractions/everglades-animals/florida-panther/>

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Committee

https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/panther/disorder/?utm_campaign=skedlink&utm_medium=button&utm_source=skedlink

Florida Wildlife Corridor

<https://floridawildlifecorridor.org/>

One Earth

<https://www.oneearth.org/species-of-the-week-florida-panther/>

Path of the Panther Activities

<https://pathofthepanther.com/resources/#ms-activity2>

Path of the Panther Film

https://pathofthepanther.com/watch/?utm_campaign=skedlink&utm_medium=button&utm_source=skedlink

Path of the Panther Learn

<https://pathofthepanther.com/resources/#ms-activity2>

National Wildlife Federation

<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Mammals/Florida-Panther>

**This exhibition is presented in collaboration with
Green Family Foundation and Wild Path.**

This is a teacher resource packet intended for elementary through high school students. For more educational resources, please visit: <https://frost.fiu.edu/learn/schools-teachers/index.html>