



Can you find these
animal tracks as you walk
around the garden?

DIRECTIONS: Use this guide to learn about several common animal species found in Florida, taking note of what each animal's tracks look like. Then explore the garden and look for the tracks. Put a check next to each track that you find. Try to find as many as you can!



FLORIDA BOBCAT

Lynx rufus floridanus



DID YOU KNOW?

Bobcats can jump as high as 12 feet and run as fast as 34 miles per hour.

Range: Most of North America, from Canada to Mexico, and expanding northward into Canada.

Habitat: Almost all habitats, including grasslands, wetlands, flatwoods, urban areas, and scrubwoods.

Size: 15 to 30 lbs.

Lifespan: Typically 3 to 4 years, up to 16 years.

Diet: Typically eats rabbits, rats, raccoons, squirrels, and opossums.

Fun facts: The Florida bobcat only sleeps for 2 to 3 hours at a time and is primarily a nocturnal hunter. The bobcat gets its name from its "bobbed" tail, which may range from 1 to 7 inches long.



WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus



DID YOU KNOW? The white-tailed deer gets its name from the long white hair located on the underside of its tail and bottom. When it runs, the hair becomes flared and the deer holds its tail up like a signaling flag.

Range: Found in southern Canada to South America, inhabiting all of the mainland United States except the Southwest.

Habitat: Areas along streams and rivers, mixed woodlands, farms, and forests.

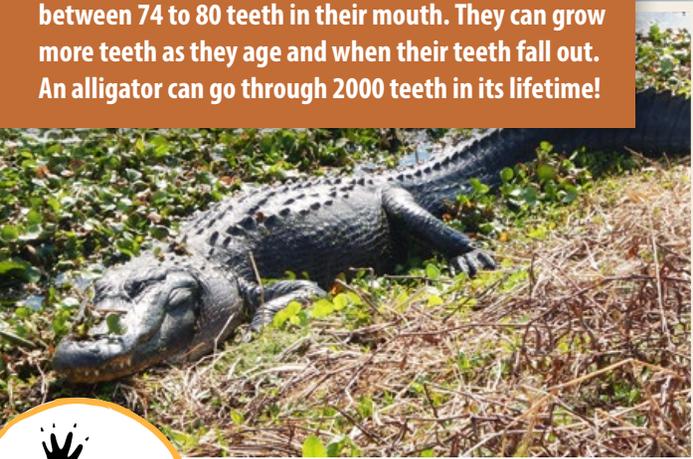
Size: 110 to 300 lbs.; 6 to 7.75 ft. tall.

Lifespan: Up to 10 years.

Diet: Feeds on any available plants, eating leaves, twigs, stems, flowers, fruits, mushrooms, and aquatic plants.

Fun facts: Only male deer grow antlers, which are shed each year. They are good swimmers and will use large streams and lakes to escape predators.

DID YOU KNOW? Alligators are toothy! They have between 74 to 80 teeth in their mouth. They can grow more teeth as they age and when their teeth fall out. An alligator can go through 2000 teeth in its lifetime!



AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

Alligator mississippiensis

Range: Found in the coastal wetlands of the southeastern United States.

Habitat: Freshwater lakes and rivers that are slow-moving. It can also be found in brackish water habitats, but is rarely found in salt water.

Size: Up to 1,000 lbs. Females can get up to 10 ft. long, males up to 15 ft.

Lifespan: 30 to 50 years.

Diet: Primarily snakes, fish, small mammals, birds, and turtles.

Fun facts: Because it is ectothermic (cold-blooded), the American alligator must lie out in the sun to regulate its body temperature. Many people believe that the alligator is green, but the color actually comes from the green algae and vegetation that cling to its back.

Range: Native to the East Coast of the United States, but has spread to Wisconsin, and across the Great Plains to the Rockies and California.

Habitat: Freshwater ponds, lakes, canals, ditches and marshes.

Size: Usually 3 to 6 in., up to 1.5 lbs.

Lifespan: 7 to 9 years.

Diet: Insects, small reptiles and mammals, crayfish, amphibians, crustaceans, frogs, and aquatic eggs.

Fun facts: Its name comes from the male's bull-sounding call. An extremely invasive species, it has spread all over the world.

DID YOU KNOW? The American bullfrog hibernates during the winter, hiding under mud until the weather improves.



AMERICAN BULLFROG

Lithobates catesbeianus

Photo credits: Dr. Steve A. Johnson (alligator, bullfrog, heron); Shutterstock (bobcat, deer).

DID YOU KNOW?

The great blue heron is the largest heron species in North America, with a wing span of 6 feet.



GREAT BLUE HERON

Ardea herodias

Range: Most of North America.

Habitat: Saltwater and freshwater ecosystems, including open coast, marshes, sloughs, rivers, and lakes.

Size: Up to 7.5 lbs, 3 to 4.5 ft. tall.

Lifespan: Up to 15 years.

Diet: Primarily small fish, but will also eat shrimp, crabs, small

mammals, amphibians, insects, small birds, and rodents.

Fun facts: The great blue heron can hunt both day and night, thanks to the large number of photoreceptors in its eyes that improve night vision. It can also fly over 20 miles per hour!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_wildlife_of_florida
<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/>
<https://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/>
<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>



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