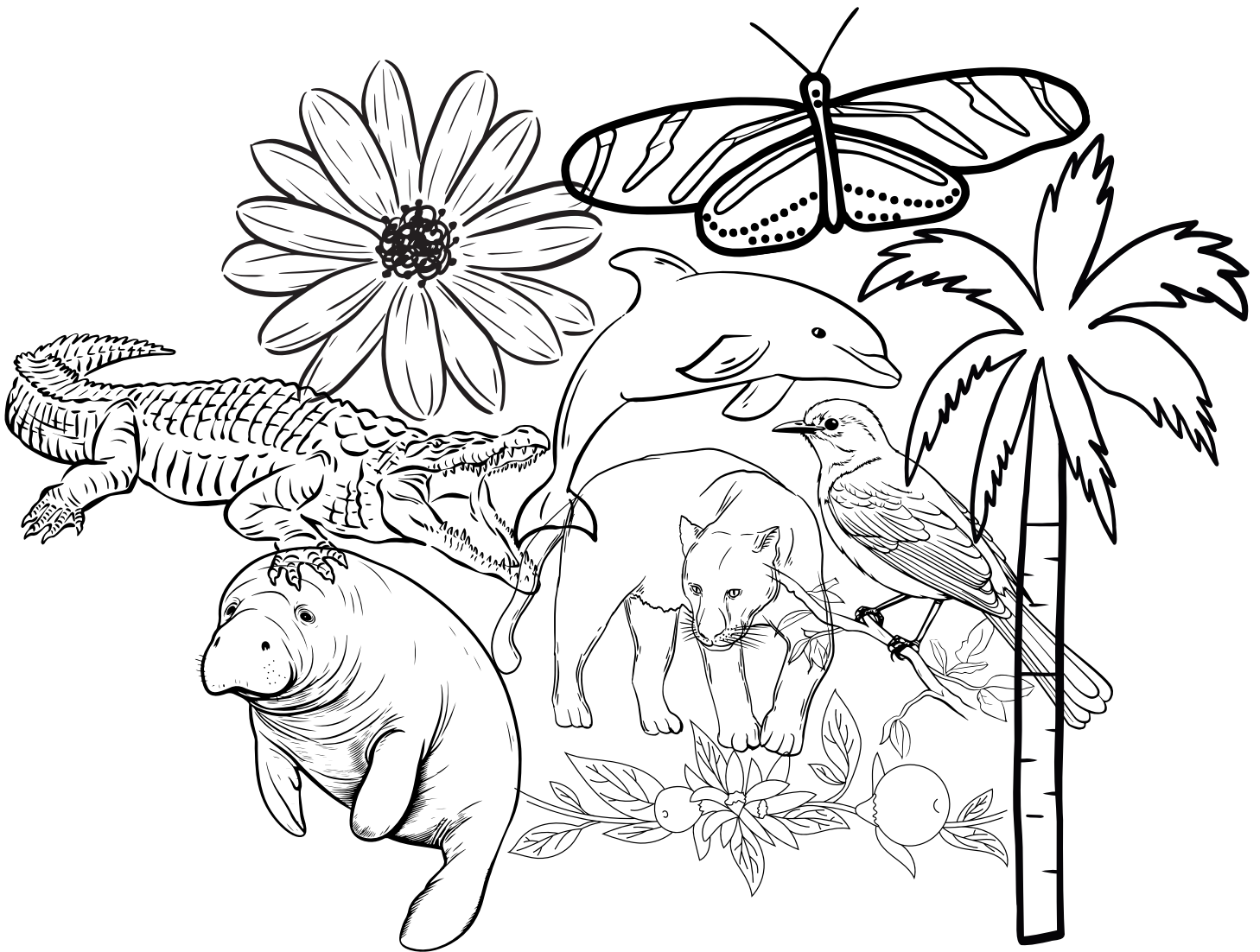
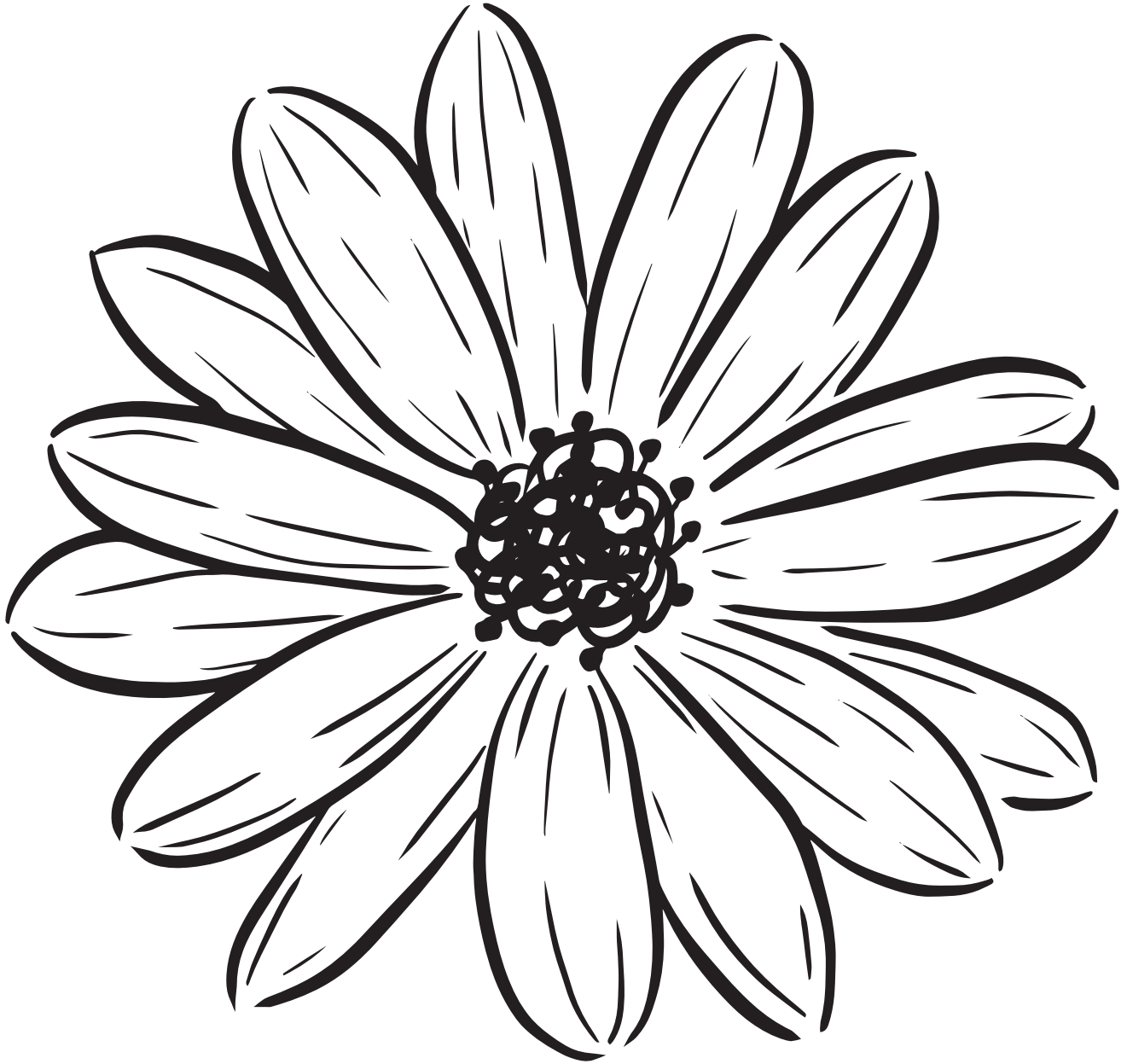


Colors of the Sunshine State

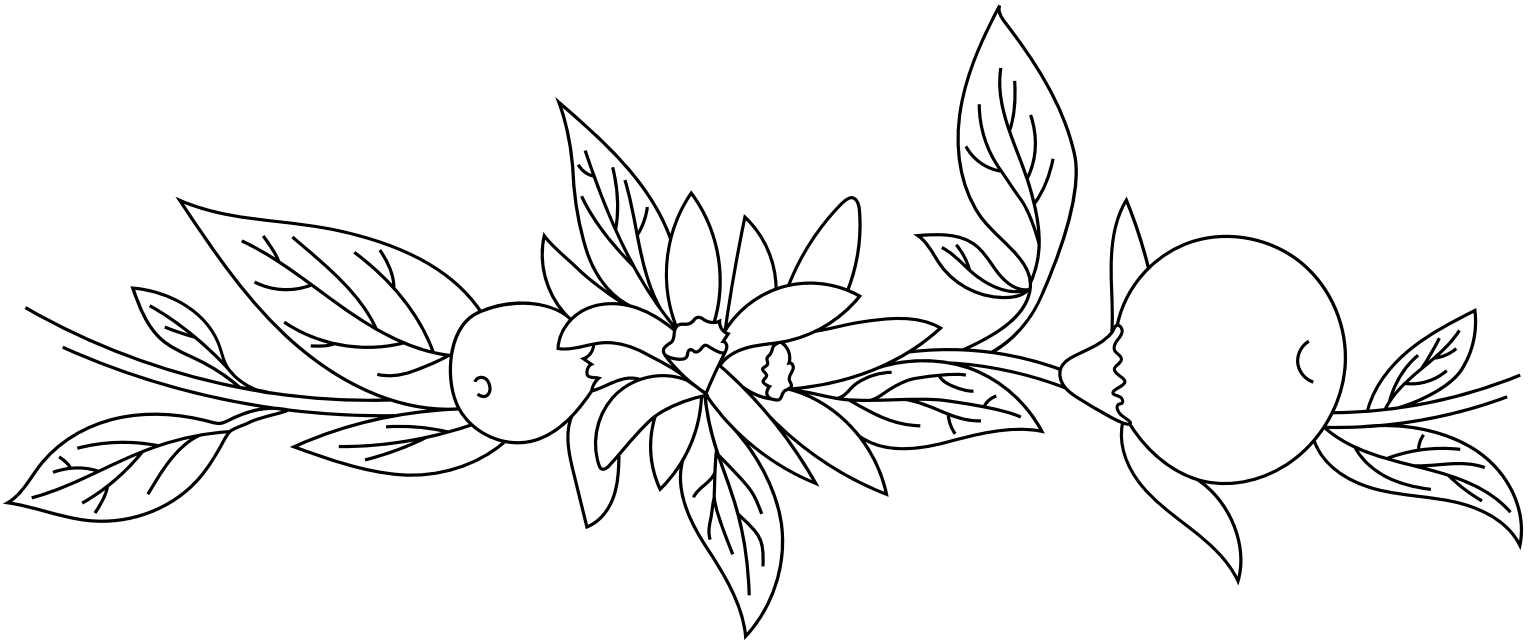


State Wildflower:



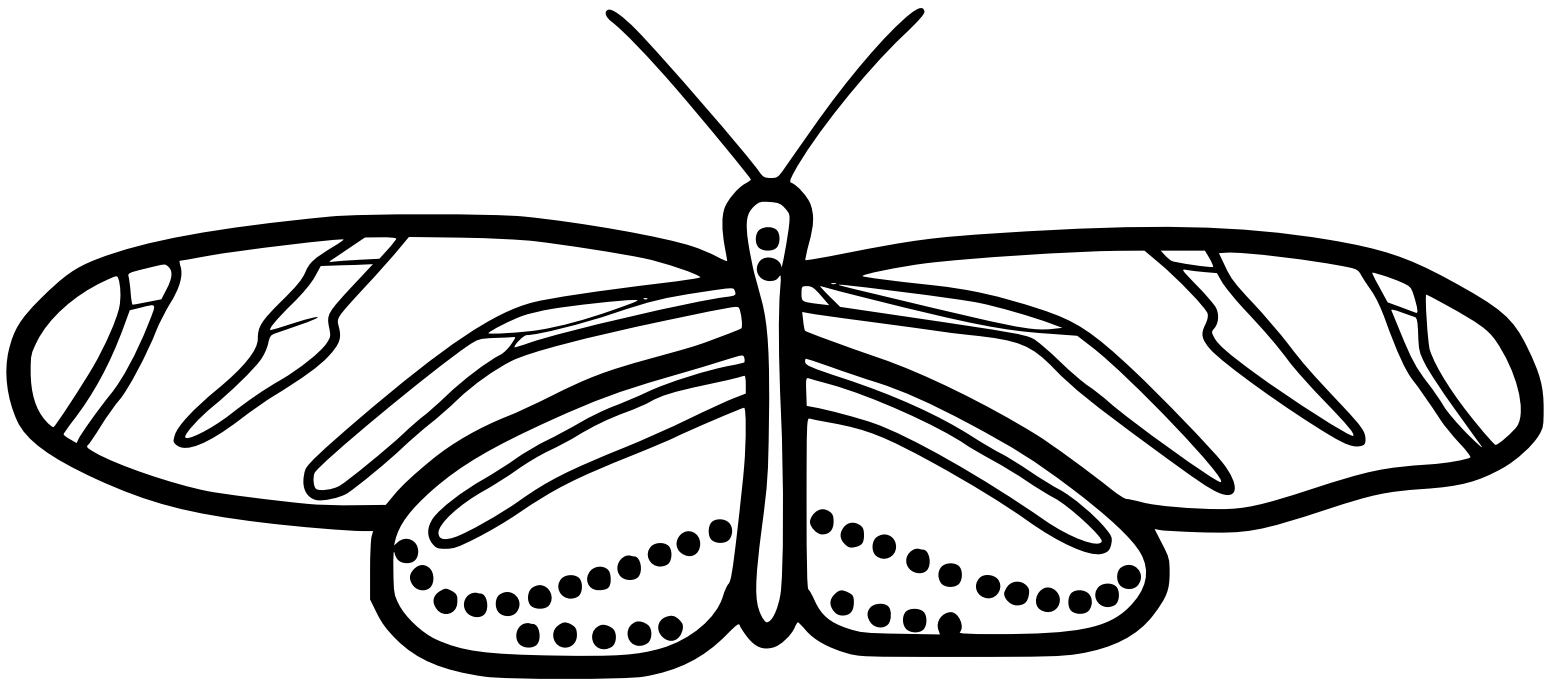
Do you know what Florida's official state wildflower is? It's a flower named the coreopsis (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*). The coreopsis, also known as the "Tickseed" or the "Golden Tickseed," is a wildflower native to Florida. This vibrant perennial represents the sunny disposition of the Sunshine State.

State Flower:



The orange blossom was selected as the state flower by the 1909 legislature. The blossom of the orange tree (*Citrus sinensis*) is one of the most fragrant flowers in Florida.

State Butterfly:



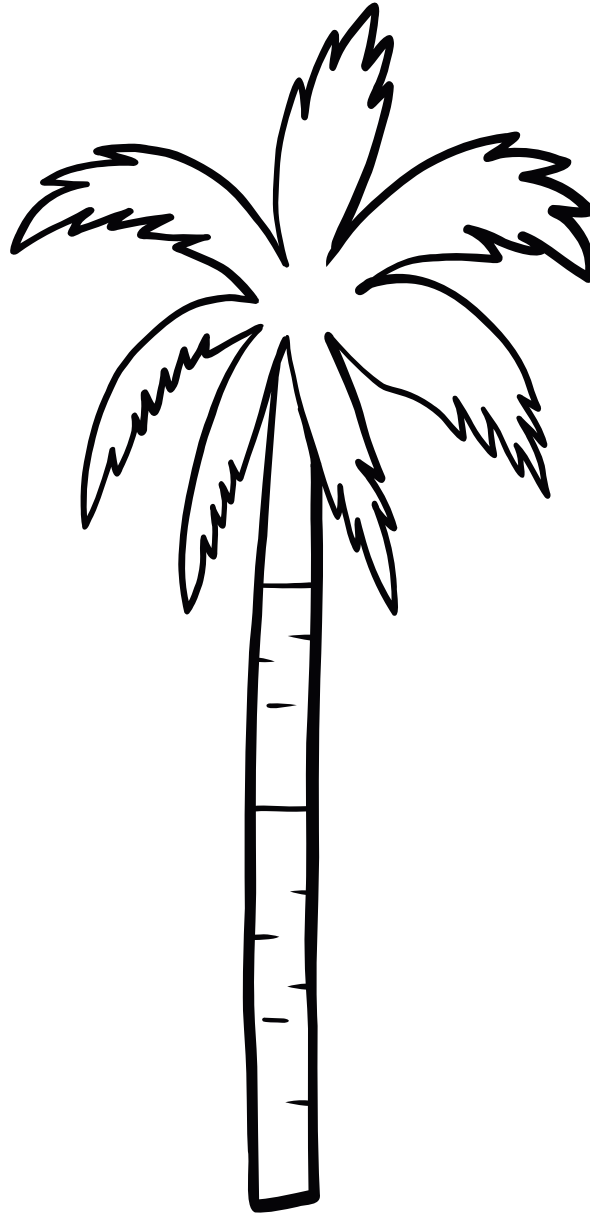
The zebra longwing has been the Florida State Butterfly since 1996! The zebra longwing is common throughout the state in areas with deep or dappled shade. It is especially frequent in gardens/landscapes that include firebush and its host plants, the corky stem passion vine and purple passion flower.

State Bird:



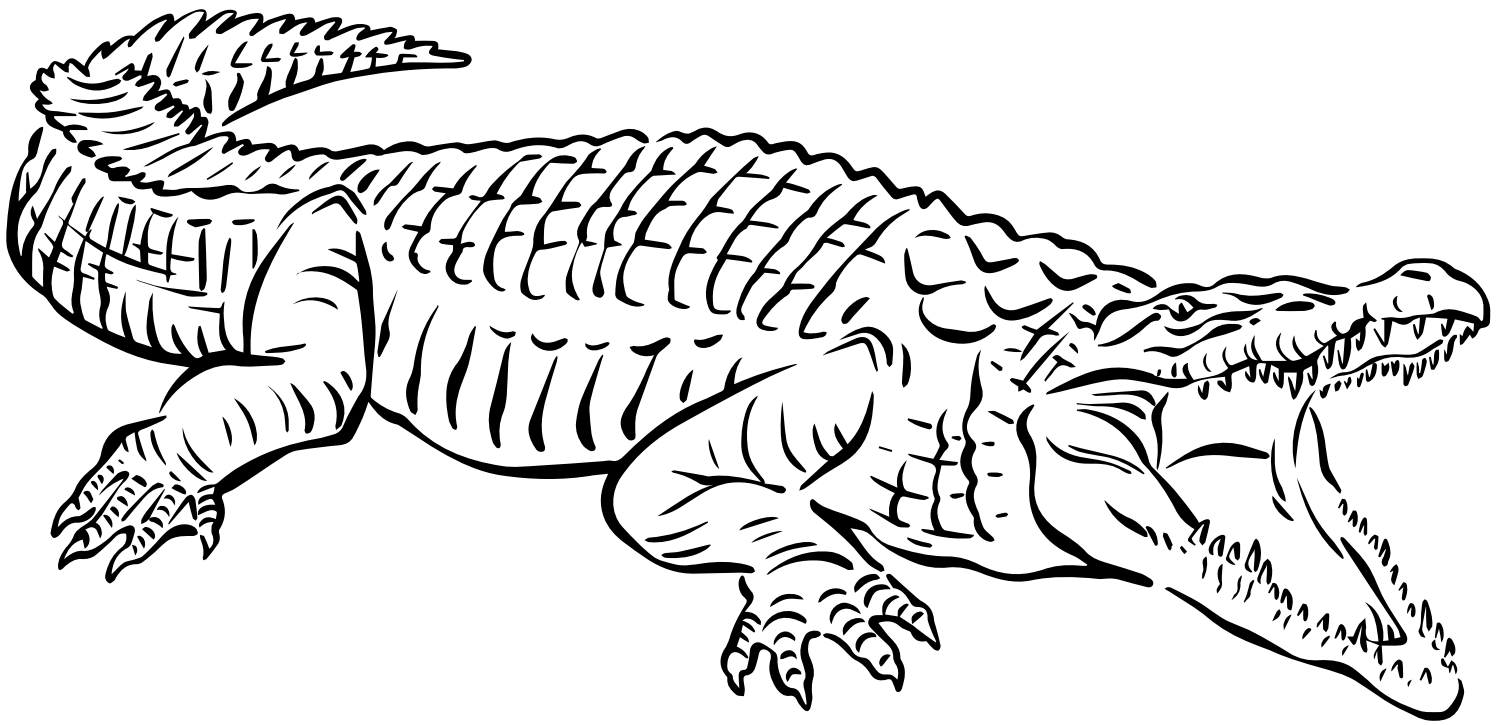
The mockingbird is the state bird of Florida and can be found commonly throughout the state in urban areas, suburban areas, and parklands. This bird prefers places with mowed lawns and open understory. Mockingbirds are known for their loud, repetitive singing of songs that they have copied from other birds, animals, humans, and surrounding noises.

State Tree:



The sabal palm, also known as the cabbage palm, was designated the state tree in 1953 and occurs on the Florida state seal. The bud of the tree is edible and is known as “heart of palm.”

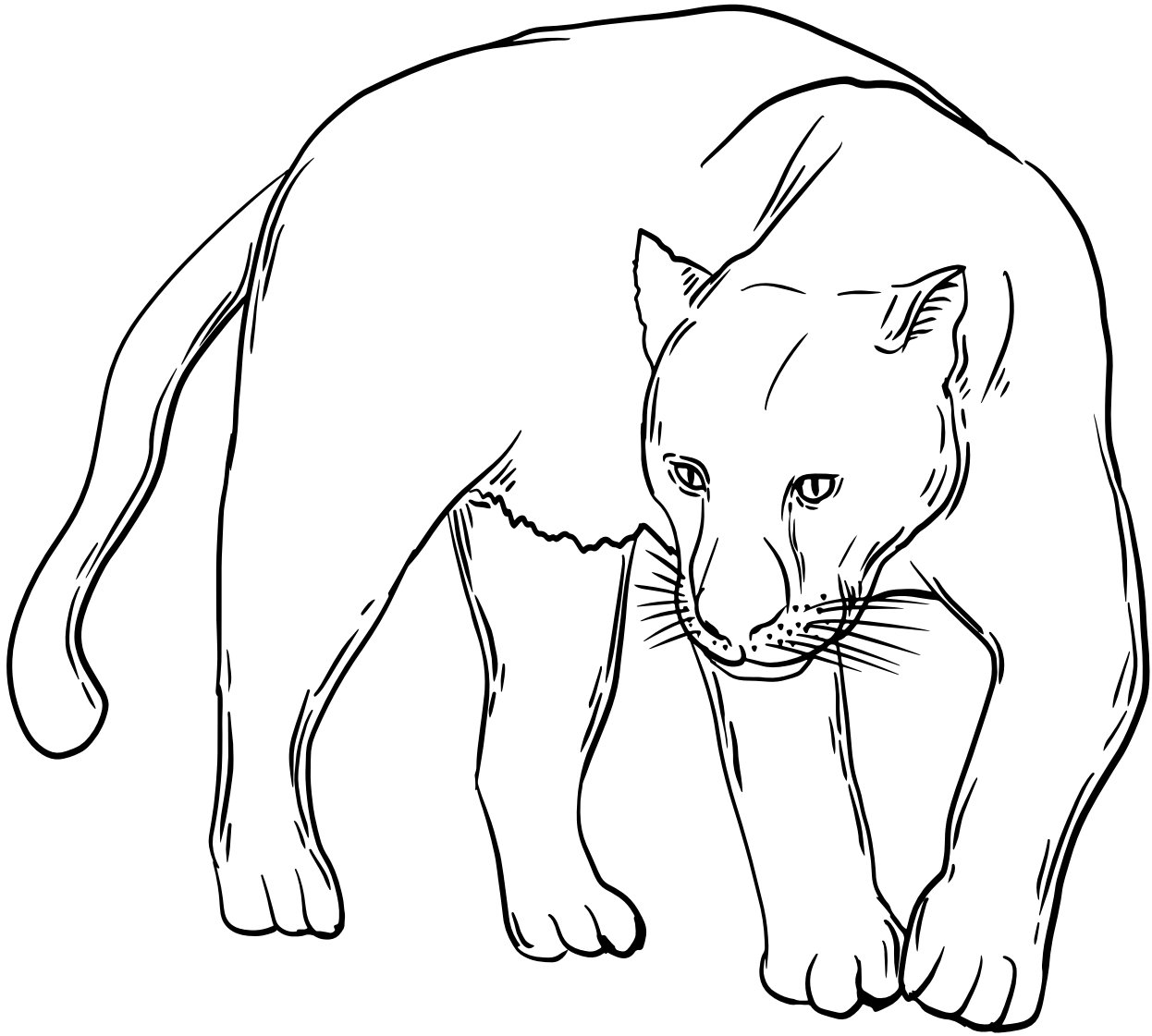
State Reptile:



Alligators are used as symbols and mascots throughout the Sunshine State.

Did you know that the American Alligator is Florida's state reptile? The American alligator is found throughout Florida in large shallow lakes, marshes, ponds, swamps, rivers, creeks, and canals. Alligators are most common in freshwater, but can occasionally be found in brackish and salt water.

State Animal:



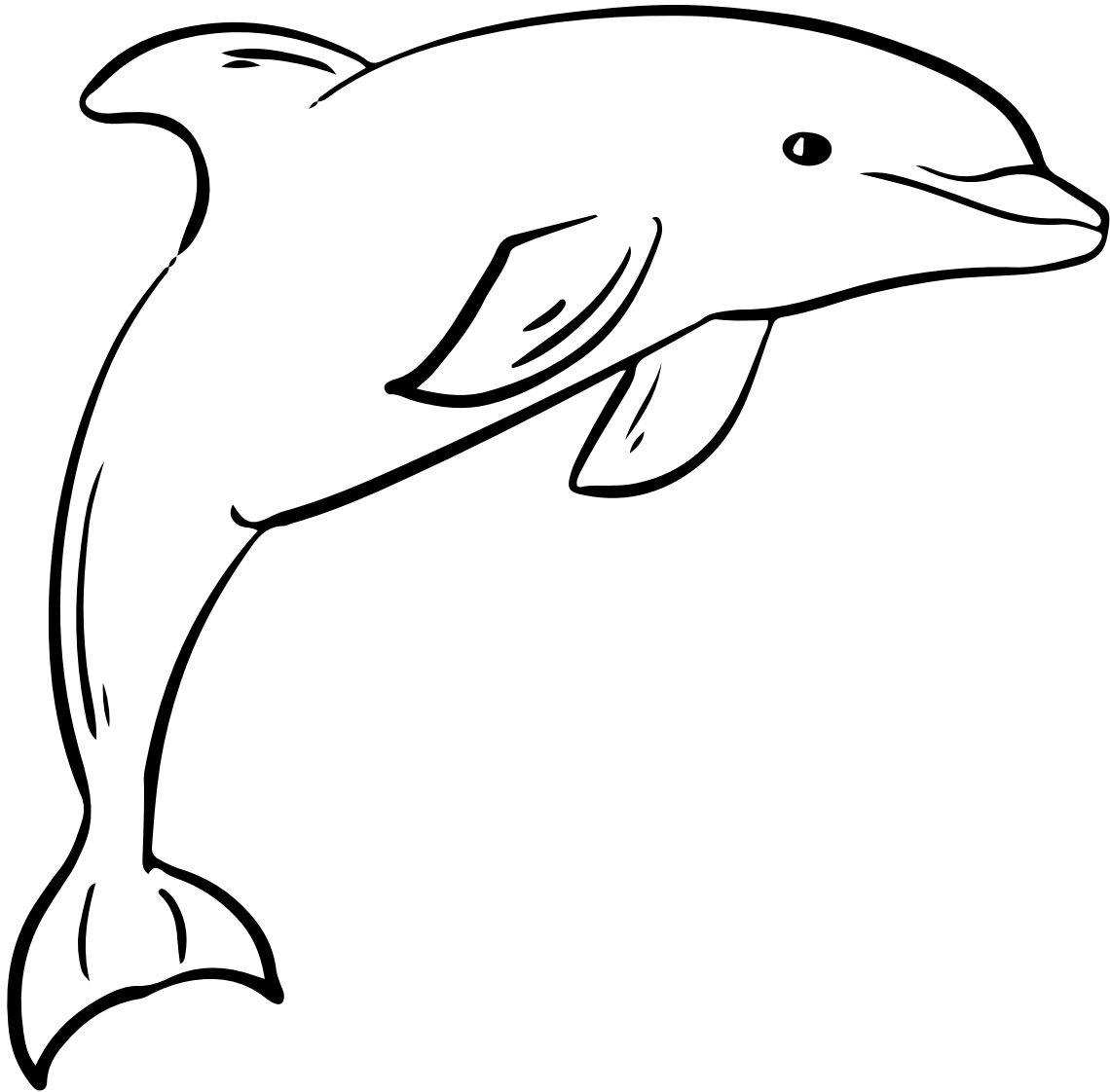
The most endangered of all Florida's symbols is its state animal, the panther. The Florida Panther is a large, long-tailed, pale brown cat that grows to six feet or longer. Its habitat is usually the same as that of the white-tailed deer, which is the mainstay of its diet.

State Marine Mammal:



The Florida manatee averages about 10 feet in length and about 1,000 pounds in weight. Manatees are unusual in that they can live in both fresh and salt water environments. They are mammals and herbivores, and generally eat about 10% of their body weight each day.

State Salt Water Mammal:



The most common dolphin is the bottle-nosed dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). Bottle-nosed dolphins have powerful, blue-gray bodies and are known to be highly intelligent. They have a wide range of vocalizations and cooperate to catch fish and care for each other.

Resource page:

Page 2: <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>
<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/coreopsis/>

Page 3: <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>

Page 4: <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>
<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/lafayetteco/2017/08/29/zebra-longwing-florida-state-butterfly/>

Page 5: <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>
<https://florida4h.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-4-h-forest-ecology/forest-ecology-contest/contest-stations/wildlife-on-the-forest-hike/birds-/northern-mockingbird/>

Page 6: <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>
<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/palms-and-cycads/sabal-palmetto/>

Page 7: <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>
<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/sumterco/2020/08/14/the-american-alligator/>

Page 8: <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>

Page 9: <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>
<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/escambiaco/2018/07/01/columbus-mermaid-the-florida-manatee/>
<https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>

Page 10: <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/>
<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/brevardco/2022/08/09/reporting-your-sightings-or-interactions-with-dolphins-in-florida/>

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