

<b>SCIENCE BULLETIN: NEW BLOOD GIVES NEW LIFE TO FLORIDA PANTHER</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Florida Panther</b>
1. How have people <b>changed</b> the <b>habitat</b> in this example?	<i>People destroyed much of the habitat of the Florida panther.  The range once included most of the southern U.S., but has been reduced to just a small area of cypress swamps in south Florida</i>
2. <b>Why</b> did people make these changes?	<i>The economy of the south (and of Florida in particular) grew very quickly, and people developed panther habitat into cities and farms.</i>
3. How do the habitat changes <b>impact populations</b> in this area?	<i>By the 1990s, there were only about 20 Florida panthers left. The offspring of these panthers had health problems that were likely the cause of inbreeding: heart defects, low fertility, physical deformities and many parasitic infections.</i>
4. How did scientists and communities <b>solve</b> the problems for these populations caused by habitat disruption?	<i>Scientists imported 8 female Texas pumas (a related population) and introduced them into the Florida panther population.</i>
5. Did the solution <b>help</b> the <b>populations</b> of animals?  Describe the <b>evidence</b> or <b>data</b> .	<i>The panther population has tripled in size and the new offspring are healthier.</i>
6. Did the solution solve the <b>habitat issues</b> ? Explain.	<i>Panthers still have a very small habitat and small population sizes. Over time, panthers may become inbred again, and so more introductions may be required in the future. Breeding Florida panthers with other populations may introduce new traits to the population.</i>