# THE FLORIDA SENATE HANDBOOK FOR KIDS

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## A STUDENT GUIDE TO THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

### *Table of Contents*


Your Florida Legislature ..... 1-2
Legislative Leaders ..... 3
Non-Member Officers ..... 4
Symbols of Florida ..... 5-9
Fun Senate Facts ..... 10-11
Florida Geographic Facts ..... 11
The 1985 State Seal..... 12
The 1972 Senate Seal ..... 12
Getting Involved ..... 13
Contacting Your Legislators ..... 13
Our State Capitol ..... 14
The Right to Vote..... 15
Glossary of Legislative Terms .... 16-19
How a Bill Becomes a Law..... 20
Picture Matching ..... 21
Follow the Maze..... 22
Counting ..... 23
Connect the Dots ..... 24-25
Coloring..... 26, 28
Crossword ..... 27
About Our Government ..... 29
Solutions to Puzzles ..... 30-32

# Your Florida Legislature

Have you ever wondered who decides how long a school day can be, or when a student can drive without an adult in the car, or how many math credits a student needs before graduation? The answer to all these questions lies in the Legislature of the State of Florida.

The Florida Legislature, which is divided into two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives, makes laws that govern our state. Members of the legislature, senators and representatives, are chosen by the citizens of Florida to represent them and the area where they live. These areas are called districts. Senators and representatives are responsible for making sure the people who elected them have a voice in all matters concerning the state.

Senators are elected to serve four-year terms. Representatives are elected to serve two-year terms. Currently, 40 senators and 120 members of the House of Representatives serve the people of Florida. Members of the Senate and House must be at least 21 years old and a resident of the district where they have been elected and must have lived in Florida for two years before running for election.

Each year, the Senate and House meet in legislative session to resolve issues important to the people of our state. Issues like driving regulations, recycling, and education are debated. In most years, the session begins on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March and lasts for sixty days. The Session ends either in sine die adjournment, with the ceremonial dropping of white handkerchiefs by each chamber's Sergeant at Arms, or in an extension of the regular session to complete unfinished work.

# Your Florida Legislature

During session, legislators work on making new laws or changing existing laws. Each member also serves on several committees where the effects of laws on the people in our state are studied. Any member of either house can make suggestions for new laws.

These suggestions, called bills, are studied in committees. The committee can change the bill, accept the bill, or reject the bill. If the bill is changed or accepted by the committee, it can then be considered by the full Senate or the full House of Representatives, which in turn votes to accept the bill as it is, change the bill, or reject the bill. Passage of a bill occurs when the bill is accepted, in most instances, by a majority of the members of one house. The passed bill goes to the other house of the Florida Legislature for review; that means a bill passed in the Senate goes to the House of Representatives for review. The bill goes through the same process in the second house as it did in the first house. The only bill that is required to be passed every year is the state's budget.

When a bill is passed by both houses, it is sent to the Governor for action. The Governor may sign the bill, allow it to become a law without his signature, or veto it. All the laws are compiled to form the Florida Statutes.

Senators invite selected students (ages 15-18) to come to Tallahassee for one week to work as pages during the regular session. Pages distribute materials and deliver messages to senators and staff. They also participate in a mock session and have scheduled visits to offices in other branches of government. House members also invite pages (ages 12-14) and messengers (ages 15-18) to work during the regular session.

Florida's government is divided into three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The executive branch implements the laws. The judges and justices of the judicial branch examine the facts, interpret the law, and make rulings in cases brought to court.

This guide to the legislative process was created to help students become familiar with the Florida Legislature. Your participation in the legislative process is essential to the preservation of democracy. You can make a difference!

# Legislative Leaders

**Andy Gardiner**
Senate President

**Steve Crisafulli**
House Speaker

The President of the Senate presides over the Senate, and the Speaker of the House presides over the House of Representatives. The President and Speaker have many other responsibilities in addition to presiding over the chamber during session, including:

- appointing members to committees.
- appointing chairs of committees.
- choosing which committees will hear bills.
- ruling on procedural matters during sessions.

**Garrett Richter**
Senate President
Pro Tempore

**Matt Hudson**
House Speaker
Pro Tempore

The roles of the President Pro Tempore and Speaker Pro Tempore are defined by the President or Speaker and the Senate or House Rules. Although these officers may preside in the chamber during the absence of the President or Speaker, a different senator or representative could also be chosen by the President or Speaker to preside.

# Non-Member Officers

**Debbie Brown**
Secretary of the Senate

**Bob Ward**
Clerk of the House

The Senate elects a Secretary of the Senate and the Speaker of the House appoints a Clerk of the House. These non-member constitutional officers have various responsibilities, including:

- recording events of the session.
- keeping the records of their respective houses.
- authenticating each bill passed by the legislature.
- publishing the journals and calendars of their respective houses.

When the legislature is in session, each day's official actions are recorded and published in a journal.

# Sergeants at Arms

Each chamber has a Sergeant at Arms who is in charge of keeping order in the chamber, gallery, and committee rooms. Each sergeant also maintains that house's property.

**Donald Severance**
Senate Sergeant at Arms

**Tim Hay**
Senate Sergeant at Arms

**Russell Hosford**
House Sergeant at Arms

Sergeant at Arms Donald Severance has worked with the Senate since 1976, 39 years, serving as Sergeant for 16 years. He will retire in November of 2015. To provide a time to transfer knowledge, Tim Hay was selected in November of 2014 to be the Sergeant at Arms. This is an historic time as the Senate will have two Sergeants at Arms for a year.

# Symbols of Florida

**STATE SEAL.** The State Seal was created by joint resolution of the 1865 Legislature. The resolution mandated: "A Seal of the size of the American silver dollar, having in the center thereof a view of the sun's rays over a high land in the distance, a cocoa tree, a steamboat on water, and an Indian female scattering flowers in the foreground, encircled by the words, 'Great Seal of the State of Florida: In God We Trust.'" In 1985, a revised Great Seal (pictured here) of the State of Florida was presented to the Governor and Cabinet.

**STATE FLAG.** Many different flags have flown over Florida. These flags include those of Spain, France, Great Britain, the Confederate States, and the United States of America. The 1899 Legislature adopted a joint resolution that led to the design of our current flag: "The State Flag shall conform with standard commercial sizes and be of the following proportions and descriptions: The seal of the state, in diameter one-half of the hoist, shall occupy the center of a white background. Red bars, in width one-fifth the hoist, shall extend from each corner towards the center, to the outer rim of the seal."

**STATE BEVERAGE.** Orange juice was named the state beverage of Florida by the 1967 Legislature. The production of orange juice became a multi-million dollar industry in Florida during the Second World War.

**STATE FLOWER.** The orange blossom became the state flower through a concurrent resolution passed by the 1909 Legislature. This fragrant flower is found in central and south Florida.

# Symbols of Florida

**STATE BIRD.** Designated by the 1927 Legislature, the mockingbird is Florida's state bird. It lives in Florida year-round and is known for its singing voice and mimicry skills. Its Latin name means "mimic of many tongues."

**STATE ANIMAL.** Students throughout the state of Florida voted the panther as our state animal in 1982. Panthers are pale brown and black in color and play a large part in our wildlife ecosystem. They have been on the federal endangered species list since 1967 and on the state endangered list since 1973. Panthers have been protected from legal hunting in Florida since 1958. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is responsible for the management and preservation of the panther.

**STATE BUTTERFLY.** The zebra longwing became the state butterfly in 1996. It is common in South Florida, especially in the Everglades National Park. However, the longwing is not common in North Florida. This black and yellow butterfly is known for dining on the sweet nectar of passion flowers.

**STATE WILDFLOWER.** The 1991 Legislature named the *coreopsis* Florida's official wildflower. These colorful flowers are used extensively in Florida's roadside plantings and highway beautification programs. The *coreopsis* is found in a variety of colors, ranging from golden yellow to pink. The flower is a food source for seed-eating birds.

# Symbols of Florida

**STATE REPTILE.** In 1987, the American alligator (*alligator mississippiensis*) was designated the official state reptile. It has long been an unofficial symbol of the state as the alligator originally symbolized Florida's untamed lands. Alligators are found throughout Florida and in parts of other southeastern states. They like lakes, swamps, canals, and other wetland habitats. They eat fish, turtles, and many other animals. Alligators should not be fed because this causes them to lose their fear of humans. Feeding alligators is also against Florida law. Alligators are now under controlled management by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This commission works to preserve the species and the wetland habitats that they and other Florida wildlife inhabit.

**STATE SALTWATER MAMMAL.** The 1975 Legislature designated the "porpoise, also commonly known as the dolphin," our saltwater mammal. The porpoise belongs to the mammalian order *cetacea*. It is gray or black with a slightly lighter underside. A system of echos—much like sonar—directs them in their travels. Porpoises have no sense of smell, but they make up for this loss with sharp eyesight and extraordinary hearing. Historically, sailors took the presence of porpoises near their boats as a sign of good luck.

**STATE SHELL.** In 1969, the Legislature named the horse conch, also known as the giant band shell, the state shell. It is native to the marine waters around Florida and grows up to a length of 24 inches. Young shells have orange color; adult shells have orange openings. The shell is the external skeleton of a soft-bodied animal that inhabits it.

# Symbols of Florida

**STATE MARINE MAMMAL.** The manatee became the state marine mammal in 1975. The manatee, which is also known as the sea cow, big beaver, mermaid, or "furnished with hands," is a gray, water-plant-eating marine mammal that can often weigh a ton or more. The manatee is on the endangered species list, but chances for its survival are good if we, as citizens of this state, take steps to ensure its safety.

**STATE SALTWATER FISH.** The 1975 Legislature named the sailfish as Florida's state saltwater fish. A sailfish is dark blue on top and brown-blue on the sides with a silvery white underbelly and many black spots. Its upper jaw is elongated in the form of a spear and the first dorsal fin is in the shape of a large sail. The sailfish is a rapidly growing species, reaching up to 7 feet long and 116 pounds. Sailfish are found offshore in south Florida near the gulfstream and off the panhandle. They feed on smaller fishes and squid at the surface or at mid-depths.

**STATE FRESHWATER FISH.** In 1975, the Legislature named the Florida largemouth bass, the largest member of the sunfish family, as the official state freshwater fish. It usually has light green to brown sides with a dark line down the side. The upper jaw of the largemouth bass extends beyond the rear edge of the eye. It prefers clear, nonflowing water and aquatic vegetation that provides food and cover. Largemouth bass are found in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and estuaries, usually at depths of 20 feet or less. The largemouth bass is Florida's most popular freshwater game fish.

# Symbols of Florida

**STATE GEM.** United States astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, aboard the Apollo 11 spacecraft. Since this and all other astronaut-controlled spaceflights had been launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Brevard County, the Florida Legislature sought to memorialize this "giant step" for humankind. In 1970, lawmakers adopted the moonstone as the official state gem.

**STATE TREE.** The 1953 Legislature designated the sabal palm our state tree. The sabal palm grows in any kind of soil and is found throughout the state. There are many uses of the sabal palm, including medicine, food, and landscaping. In 1970, the Legislature mandated that the sabal palm should replace the cocoa palm on the state seal.

**STATE PIE.** The 2006 Legislature designated key lime pie as the official state pie. The key limes (*Citrus aurantifolia* Swingle) used to make this dessert are named after the Florida Keys where the key limes originated in the United States. The first key lime pie was created in the 1850s in south Florida. Made using key limes and sweetened condensed milk, the recipe became popular in early Florida because it did not require refrigeration.

**STATE STONE.** In 1979, agatized coral was designated the official state stone. Agatized coral occurs when silica in the ocean water hardens, replacing the limy corals with a form of quartz known as chalcedony. This long process (20-30 million years) results in the formation of a "pseudomorph," meaning that one mineral has replaced another without having lost its original shape. Agatized coral is found in three main Florida locations: Tampa Bay, the Econfina River, and the Withlacoochee/Suwannee River beds.

# Fun Senate Facts

**1st African-American Senator since Reconstruction:**
Arnett E. Girardeau, District 7, Jacksonville, Democrat 1982-1992

**1st African-American Woman Senator:**
Carrie P. Meek, District 36, Miami, Democrat 1982-1992

**1st African-American Woman to Serve as Minority (Democratic) Leader:**
Arthenia L. Joyner, District 19, Tampa, Democrat 2014-2016

**Number of African-American Senators during Reconstruction (1868-1887):**
18

**1st Woman Senator:**
Beth Johnson, District 19, Orlando, Democrat, 1962-1967

**1st Woman Senate President:**
Gwen Margolis, District 37, North Miami Beach, Democrat, 1990-1992

**1st Hispanic Senator:**
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, District 34, Dade County, Republican, 1986-1989

**Youngest known Senate President:**
John L. Doggett (1827) age 29
Park M. Trammell (1905) age 29

**Oldest known Senate President:**
William A. Shands (1957) age 68

**Senator with Highest Number of Years Served:**
Scott Dilworth Clarke 1931-1966; Total: 36 years, 34 sessions

**Youngest Senator Elected (modern records):**
Dennis J. Patrick O'Grady, Republican, elected in 1967, 23 years old

**Senators Elected as Governor of Florida since the Constitution was Revised in 1968:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1971-1979 | Reubin O'Donovan Askew - Democrat |
| 1979-1987 | Daniel Robert Graham - Democrat |
| 1991-1998 | Lawton M. Chiles - Democrat |
| 2007-2011 | Charlie Crist - Republican |

**1st Cuban-American Senate President Pro Tempore:**
Senator Roberto Casas, District 39, Hialeah, Republican, 1996-1998

# Fun Senate Facts

- Senator Toni Jennings, the second woman to serve as Senate President, was the first senator to serve two consecutive terms as President (1996-1998; 1998-2000), and later became the first female Lieutenant Governor of the State of Florida (2003-2006).

- Senator Garrett Richter is the first President Pro Tempore to serve two consecutive terms (2012-2014; 2014-2016).

- During the 1992-1994 legislative term, Senators Ander Crenshaw (Republican) and Pat Thomas (Democrat) split the Senate Presidency. Each senator served one year as President. This was due to an even split in the number of Republicans and Democrats for that term.

- Instances of family members serving together within the Legislature include: Senator Don Gaetz (2006-present) and son, Representative Matt Gaetz (2010-present); Senator Larcenia Bullard (2002-2012; former Representative 1992-2000), her husband, Representative Edward B. Bullard (2000-2008), and their son, Senator Dwight M. Bullard (2012-present; former Representative 2008-2012); Senator Jack Latvala (1994-2002, 2010-present) and his son, Representative Chris Latvala (2014-present); and Senator Aaron Bean (2012-present) and his brother-in-law, Senator Rob Bradley (2012-present).

- For five months in 1967, there were two senators named Beth Johnson serving together in the Senate.

# Florida Geographic Facts

- Total area - 65,757 square miles
- Total land area - 53,624 square miles
- Total water area - 12,133 square miles
- Length north and south - 447 miles (St. Marys River to Key West)
- Width east and west - 361 miles (Atlantic Ocean to Perdido River)
- Highest natural point - Britton Hill at 345 feet, near Lakewood in Walton County
- Geographic center - 12 miles west of north of Brooksville in Citrus County
- General coastline - 1,350 statute miles
- Tidal shoreline (general) - 2,276 statute miles
- Number of islands or “keys” greater than 10 acres - 4,510
- Longest river - St. Johns, approximately 273 miles
- Largest lake - Lake Okeechobee, 700 square miles
- Largest county - Collier, 1998.32 square miles (land area)
- Smallest county - Union, 243.56 square miles (land area)
- Number of natural freshwater lakes 10 square miles or more - 20
- Number of first-magnitude springs - 33

Information obtained from:
Allen Morris et al., The Florida Handbook (34th ed. 2014), *available at*
http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/contentViewer.aspx?Category=PublicGuide&File=FloridaHandbook.html

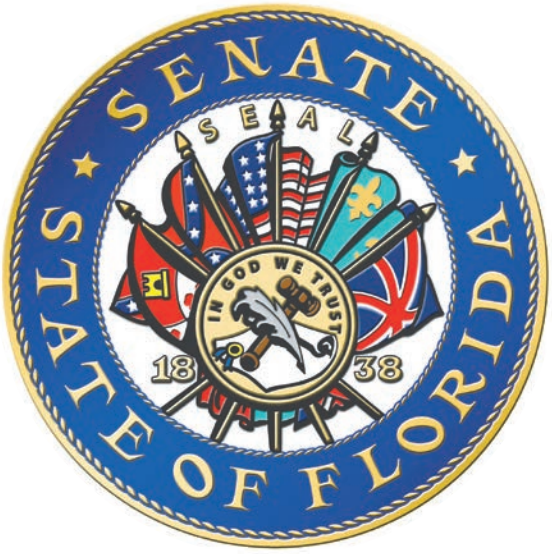
Allen Morris and Joan Perry Morris, The Florida Handbook (32nd ed. 2009)

# The 1985 State Seal

In 1985, a revised Great Seal of the State of Florida was presented to the Governor and Cabinet. The previous version of the state seal had several historical errors, which were corrected in the 1985 seal. The current seal features a Seminole woman rather than a western Plains Indian, as was depicted on earlier seals. The image of a steamboat has been made more accurate, and the seal now includes a sabal palm, our state tree, instead of a cocoa palm.

Through the years, the appearance of the state seal has changed considerably. The steamboat, for instance, has been depicted in a variety of ways. Also, the earliest official state seal pictured a mountainous background, which was later removed because it did not represent Florida's flat terrain. The Indian woman has worn various types of clothing, some of them more historically accurate than others. In one version of the seal, for example, the woman wore a feather headdress of a style worn only by Indian men. Despite the changes in the appearance of the seal, the basic elements of the Great Seal of the State of Florida have remained the same.

# The 1972 Senate Seal




The 1972 Senate adopted a new official Senate seal. The perimeter of the seal contains the words "Senate" and "State of Florida." The center contains a fan of the five flags that have flown over Florida, above a disk containing the words, "In God We Trust," arched above a gavel, quill, and scroll—symbols of the Legislature. The quill depicts the writing of laws, the gavel depicts control or authority in the presiding officer, and the scroll depicts the parchment on which laws are permanently written. It is this body of written law upon which rests the very foundation of this nation's "rule of law," as opposed to "rule of men."

# Getting Involved

Even though you cannot vote until you are 18 years old, you play an important role in the shaping of Florida laws. You have a responsibility to learn all you can about the legislative process so you can become an informed voter. Become knowledgeable about the issues affecting the lives of the people of our state and how those issues affect us even on the national level. Start by involving yourself in statewide mock government programs such as YMCA Youth in Government, Girls or Boys State, and other such organizations. Involvement in student government programs at your school is also a good way to learn how the legislative process works.

# Contacting Your Legislators

Legislators enjoy hearing from their younger constituents. You can determine who your legislators are by visiting the Senate's website at www.flsenate.gov. You may also e-mail your legislators using the e-mail address provided on each legislator's web page.

If you wish to meet with your senator or representative during the legislative session, you should call ahead to make an appointment. Groups wishing to make special arrangements to visit on a day when the legislature is in session should contact their legislators as far in advance of their proposed visit as possible. Your legislator can assist you in making sure your visit to the Florida Legislature is properly scheduled.

We also encourage you to visit the State Capitol in Tallahassee. The Welcome Center provides educational and fun tours for your family or class all year round. You will get to see such sights as the Great Seal of the State of Florida in the Capitol Rotunda and a panoramic view of Tallahassee and its surrounding area from the twenty-second floor. You may schedule a tour of the Capitol by calling (850) 488-6167.

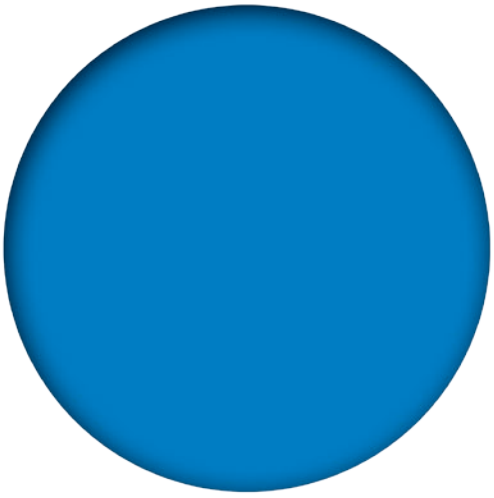
# Our State Capitol

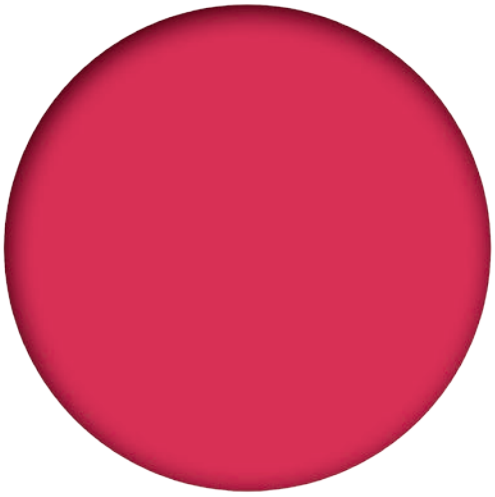
The "new" State Capitol officially opened in March 1978, and has a tower that is 22 stories tall. The Senate is housed in the south wing and the House of Representatives is housed in the north wing. The Historic Capitol, or "old" Capitol building, has been preserved to the 1902 version and houses many exhibits relating to state and legislative history.

# The Right to Vote

The right to vote is the most important right granted to citizens. Each Florida citizen votes to elect one state senator and one state representative for his or her district. Voters must be at least 18 years old, registered, and a resident of our state.

Below you'll find examples of campaign buttons used during elections. Have fun making your own campaign buttons. Hold a mock election in your classroom to experience the voting process.





# Glossary of Legislative Terms

**Act** A bill passed by the legislature.

**Adjourn** To end a committee meeting or a day's legislative sitting.

**Adjourn Sine Die** To finally end a legislative session.

**Adopt** To vote to accept.

**Amendment** A proposal to change the original terms of a bill.

**Bicameral** Consisting of two houses. All states have bicameral legislatures except Nebraska, which has only one house (unicameral).

**Bill** A proposed law.

**Budget** A bill that states how much money will be spent on government programs and services.

**Calendar** A list of bills awaiting legislative action.

**Caucus** A meeting of members of a political party where party leaders may be elected and plans are made concerning issues and agendas.

**Chair** A legislator who presides over a committee meeting or a session.

**Chamber** Also known as the "floor," it is the room in which the Senate or the House of Representatives meets.

**Clerk of the House of Representatives** The person appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to assist the members of the House in the detailed processes of enacting laws and recording that history.

**Committee** A group of senators or representatives appointed by the presiding officer to consider important issues and to report recommendations for action by the body that originated it.

# Glossary of Legislative Terms

**Constituent** A citizen who resides in the district of a legislator.

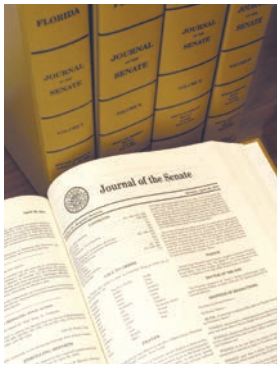
**Constitution** The written instrument embodying the fundamental principles of the state which establishes power and duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people.

**Convene** To meet in formal legislative session.

**Debate** To argue the merits of an issue, for and against.

**Decorum** Appropriate behavior and conduct.

**District** That area of the state represented by a legislator, determined on the basis of population.




**Gallery** The seating area for visitors located above the chambers (on the fifth floor of the Capitol).

**Governor** The chief executive of the State.

**Journal** The official record of the proceedings of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

**Law** The final product of the legislative process. An act becomes a law when the Governor either approves it or fails to sign or veto it within the period specified in the State Constitution. An act can also become a law when a subsequent legislature overrides a veto by the Governor.

**Legislator** A member of the legislature.

**Lobbyist** A person who, voluntarily or for a fee, represents himself or herself or an individual, organization, or entity before the legislature. The term derives from the fact that lobbyists usually stay in the areas (lobbies) next to the chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives, either to meet legislators as they walk to and from the chambers or await legislative action which might affect their interest.

# Glossary of Legislative Terms

**Majority party** The political party having the most seats in a house.

**Minority party** The political party having the fewest seats in a house.

**Motion** A proposal, usually oral, made to the presiding officer and relating to procedure or action before a legislative body.

**Oath of Office** An oath or vow taken by a public official prior to assuming his or her official duties.

**Order of Business** The defined routine of procedure in the legislative body each day. It can be deviated from only by waiver of the rules.

**Override** To pass a bill after the Governor has vetoed it. This requires a two-thirds vote of each house.

**Passage** Favorable action on a measure before the legislature.

**President of the Senate** The presiding officer of 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 for a term of two years.

**President Pro Tempore of the Senate** Literally, president "for a time." He or she performs specified duties as prescribed by the Senate Rules or the Senate President.

**Quorum** The number of members required to conduct business.

**Readings** The constitution requires that a bill be read three separate times on three separate days before it can be passed.

**Repeal** To delete a previously passed law.

**Roll call** An electronic vote or the calling of the roll of names to determine the outcome of a vote on a legislative matter.

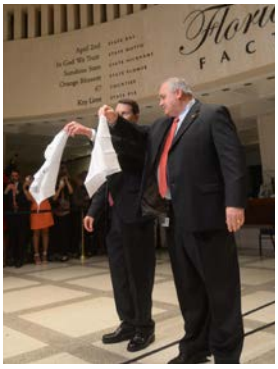
# Glossary of Legislative Terms

**Rules** Provisions for the procedure, organization, officers, and committees of each house of the legislature.

**Secretary of the Senate** The person elected by the Senate to assist Senate officers, members, and staff in the detailed processes of enacting laws and recording that history.

**Sergeant at Arms** The person in each house who is responsible for the security of the legislative house and the maintenance of that house's property.

**Session** The period during which the legislature meets.



**Sine die** A Latin phrase meaning "without day." The term is often used to denote the ceremony involving the dropping of white handkerchiefs which symbolizes the end of a regular session.

**Speaker of the House of Representatives** The presiding officer of the House of Representatives. He is designated as Speaker by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the House for a term of two years.

**Sponsor or Introducer** A legislator who introduces a bill.

**Statutes** The compilation of individual laws which are the official laws of Florida.

**Term of office** The period of time for which a person is elected to serve in an office.

**Veto** The return by the Governor to the legislature of a bill without his or her signature; the veto message from the Governor usually explains why he or she thinks the bill should not become a law.

**Vote** A decision on a question, either affirmative or negative.

# How a Bill Becomes a Law

A bill may be introduced in either the Senate or House of Representatives.

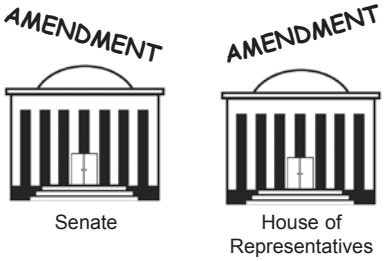
A committee studies the bill and often holds public hearings on it.

A favorable report moves the bill to the calendar.

The bill may then be placed on a special order calendar for debate before the entire body.

The bill is subject to second reading and amendments, then third reading and debate on a different day, before final passage.

After passing in the Senate, the bill goes through the same procedure in the House of Representatives.




If amendments are adopted in the other house, the house of origin must concur for the bill to move forward.

When the identical bill is passed in both houses, it is signed by the respective officers and sent to the Governor.

The Governor signs the bill into law or vetoes it. If the Governor fails to act on the bill within 7 or 15 days, it becomes law without his or her signature.

# Picture Matching

Match the pictures on the left with the names on the right:
The solution to the puzzle is on page 30.

**State Butterfly**
***Zebra Longwing***

**State Bird**
***Mockingbird***

**State Saltwater Mammal**
***Porpoise***

**State Animal**
***Florida Panther***

**State Marine Mammal**
***Manatee***

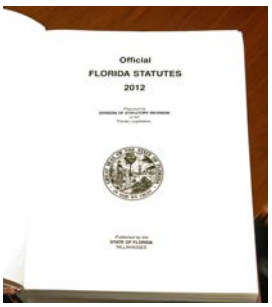
# Follow the Maze

Help the kids turn their idea into a law.

Senate

House of Representatives

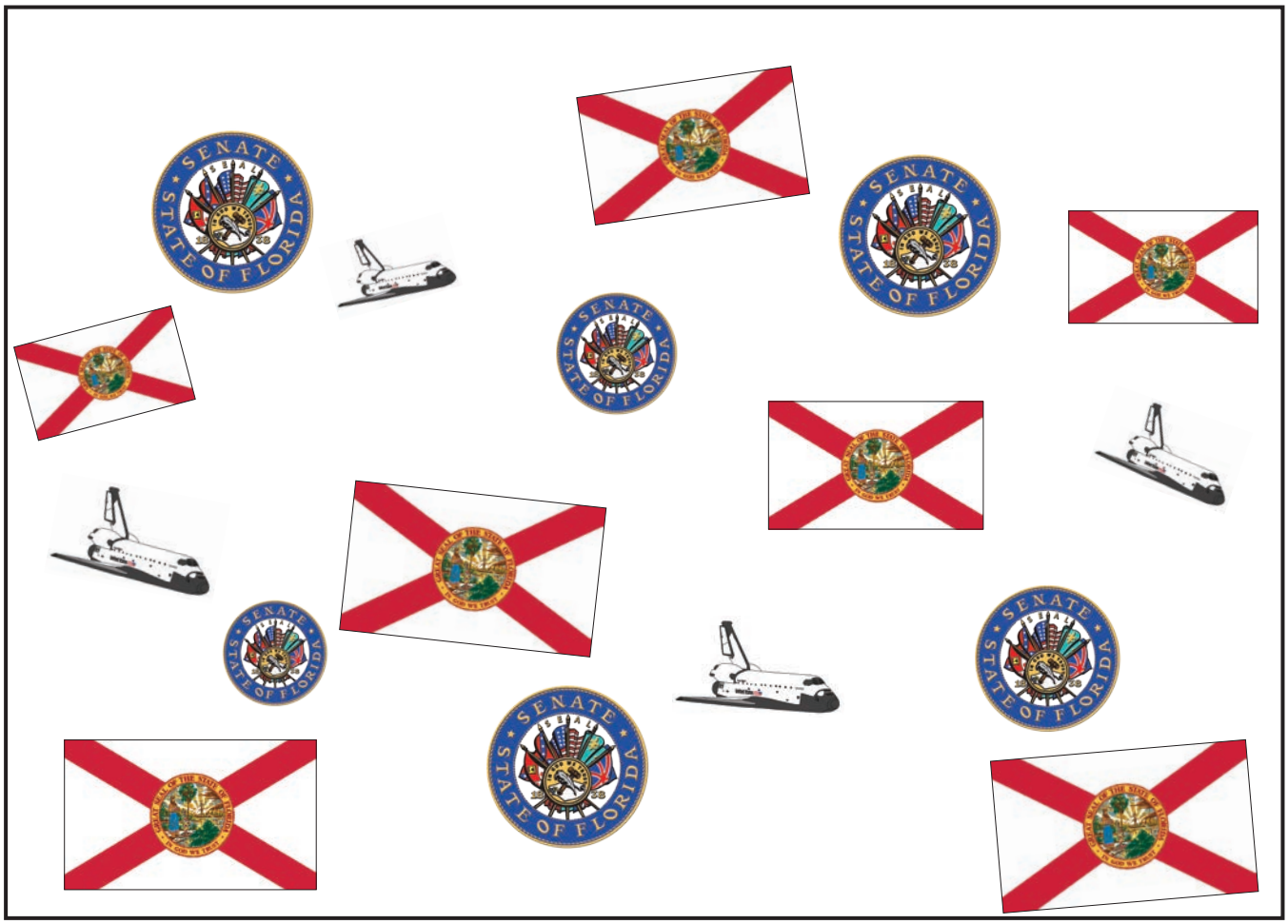
Governor



Their idea
becomes a law!

# Counting

The solution to the puzzle is on page 32.



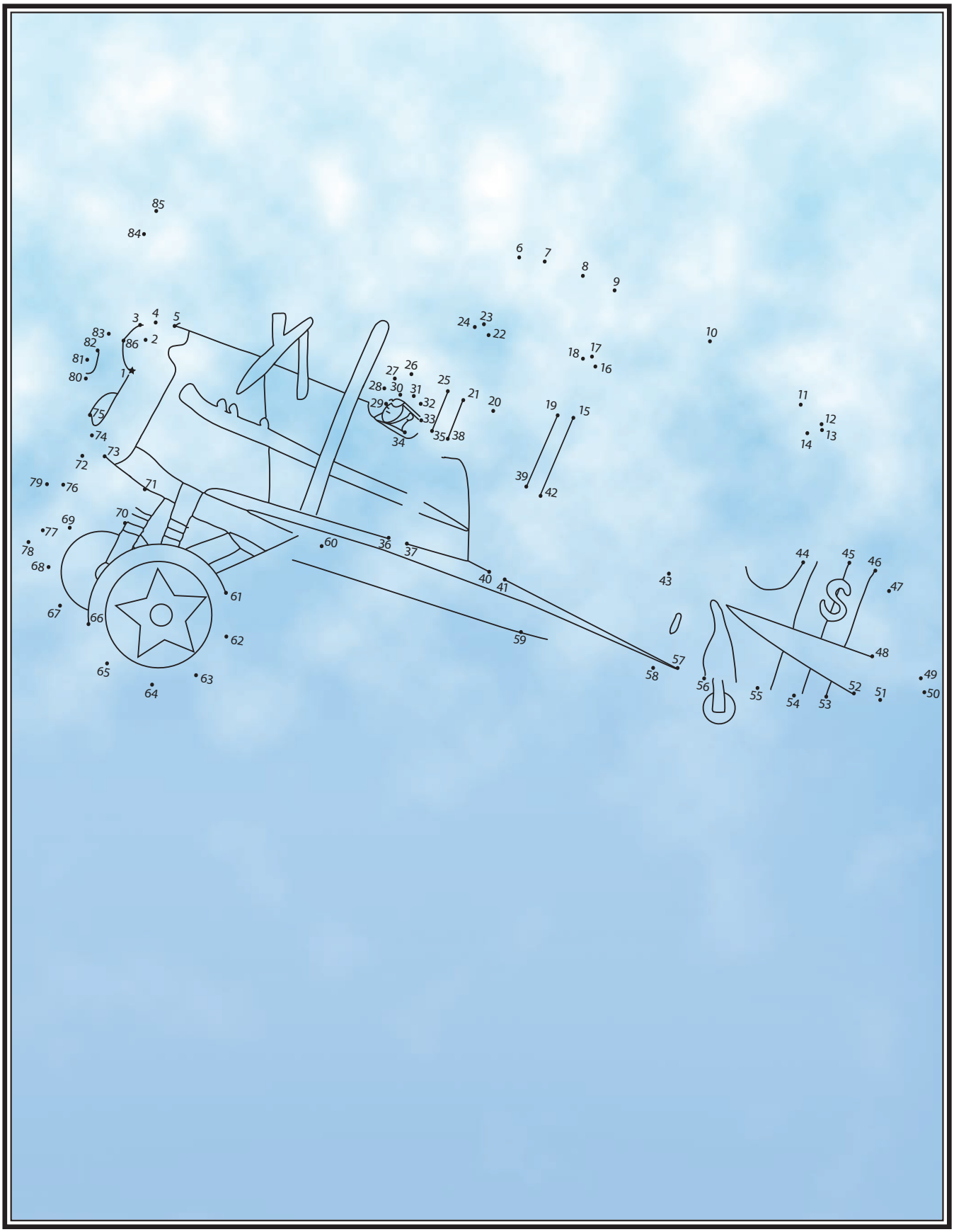
How many State of Florida flags do you see? _____

How many space shuttles do you see? _____

How many Senate seals do you see? _____

How many pictures in all do you see? _____

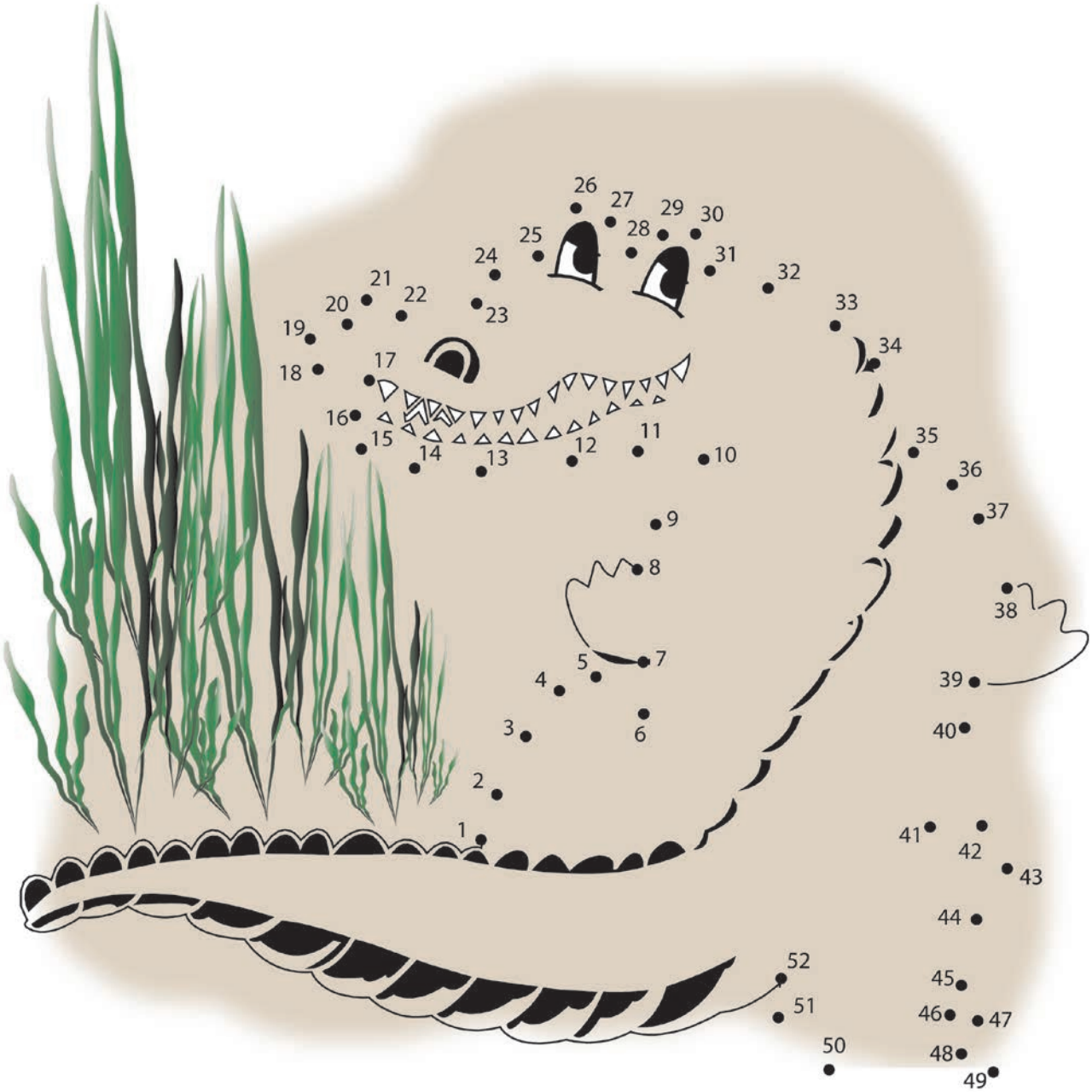
# Discover the Hidden Picture



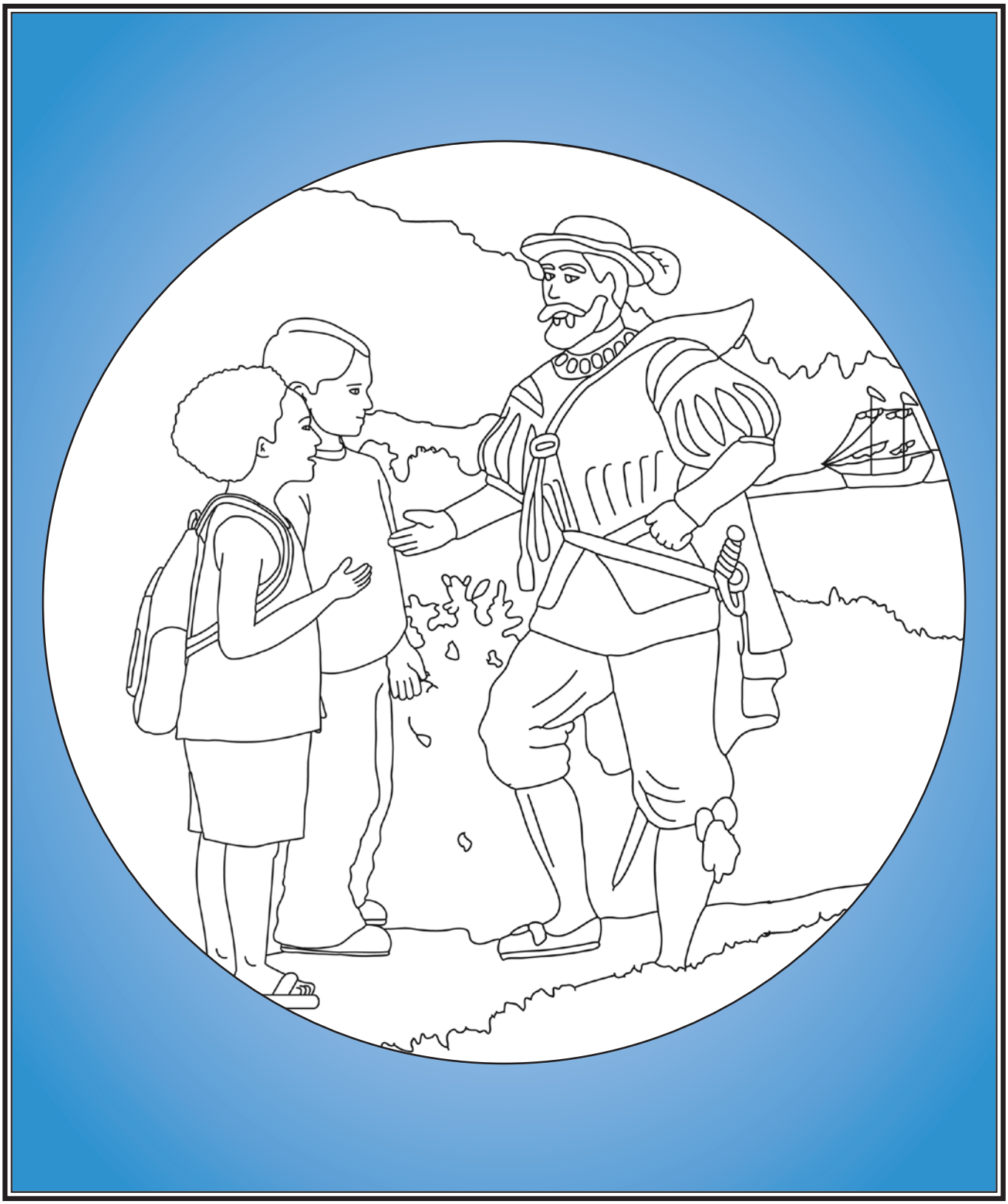
# Florida's State Reptile

Connect these dots and discover one of Florida's exciting state symbols.

CLUE: This creature is well-known in Florida and makes its home in lakes, swamps, canals, and other wetland habitats. It likes to eat fish, turtles, and many other animals.

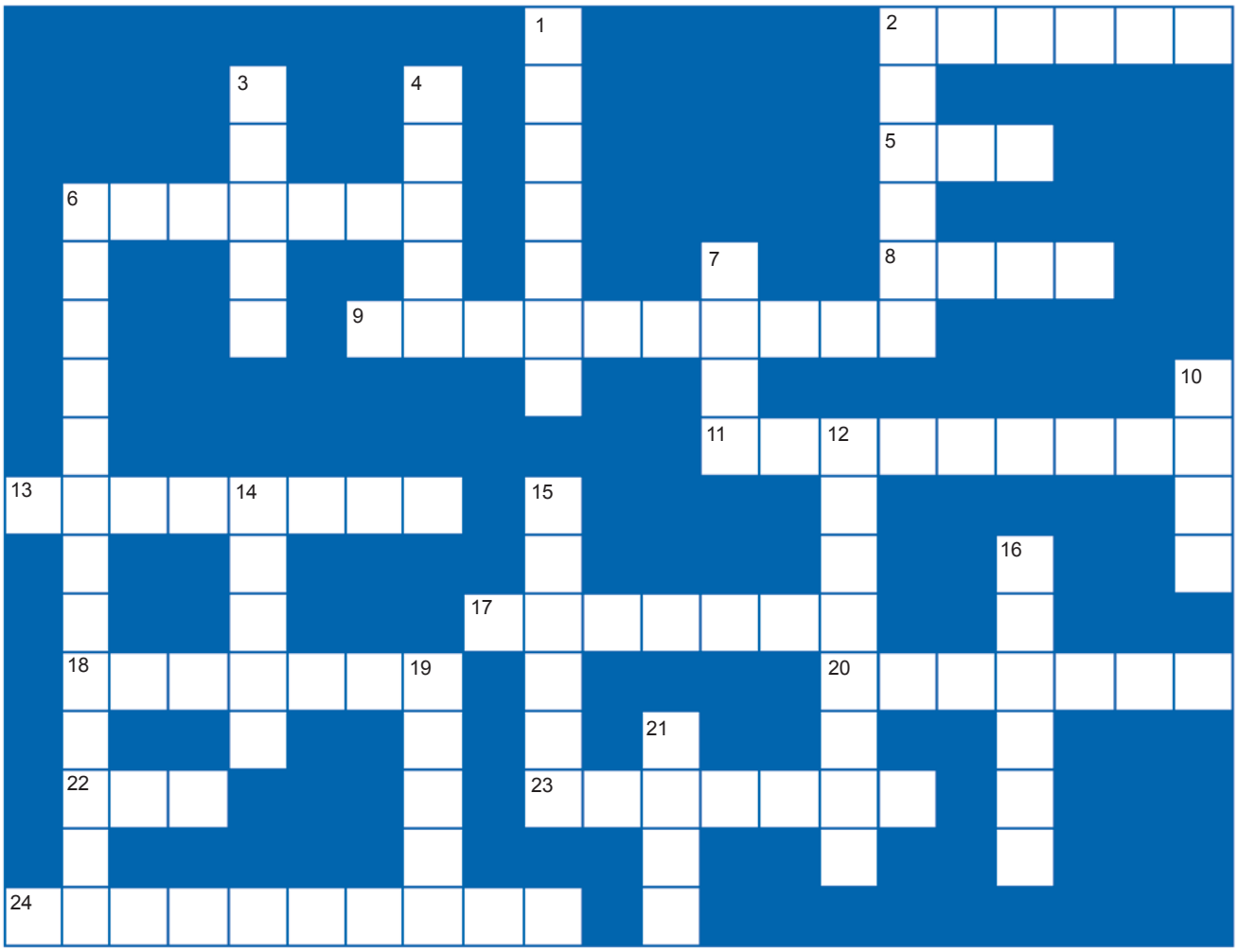


# Coloring



# Crossword

Take the crossword puzzle challenge. See how many of these legislative terms you can figure out. Have fun! When you are done, the solution may be found on page 31.



**Across**

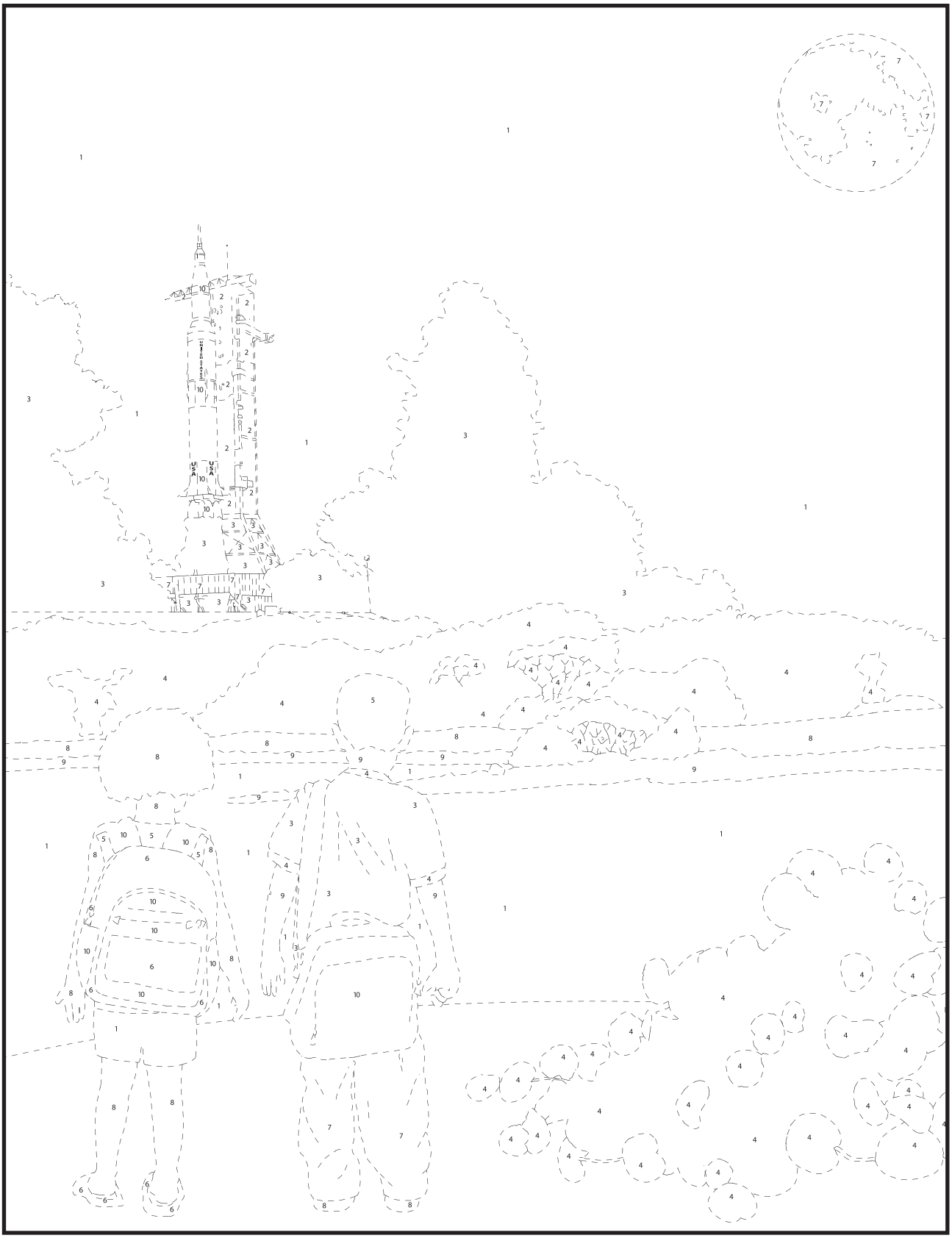
2) Discussion on a bill
5) What a passed bill becomes after the Governor approves it
6) Legislator who serves a 4-year term
8) _____ of Office
9) Party's symbol is an elephant
11) Create legislation
13) Area represented by legislators
17) To meet for regular session
18) End of session
20) Consideration of a bill
22) A passed bill
23) Introducer of an amendment
24) Party's symbol is a donkey

**Down**

1) Appropriate behavior
2) Explorer who named Florida
3) Legislator who presides over a committee
4) Number of branches of government
6) State nickname
7) Name of proposed law
10) A state symbol
12) Highest ranking state official
14) Set of guidelines for the legislature
15) Passes a resolution
16) State operating dollars
19) To pass a bill
21) Action taken on a bill (for passage)

# Coloring

Use the numbers listed below to color the picture.
1 blue, 2 red, 3 orange, 4 green, 5 yellow, 6 pink, 7 gray, 8 brown, 9 tan, 10 black



# About Our Government

Are you a good code breaker? We need one. In the following paragraph, certain words disappeared, and in their place were left numbers. We know that each of these numbers matches up to a certain letter in the alphabet. We need you to convert these numbers to letters and bring back the missing words. Fill in the blank above the number with a letter. When you think you've cracked the code, check the solution on page 32.

We discovered that 12 = L, hope this helps. Good Luck!!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | L | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

Florida is the only state in the nation whose _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ is reviewed every
3 15 14 19 20 9 20 21 20 9 15 14

20 years. This set of rules determines the State's government and our laws. Our government

has three branches. They are the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _, the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _,
12 5 7 9 19 12 1 20 9 22 5 5 24 5 3 21 20 9 22 5

and the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ branches. The Legislature passes _ _ _ _, which are carried
10 21 4 9 3 9 1 12 12 1 23 19

out by the executive branch. The head of this branch is the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _. The judicial
7 15 22 5 18 14 15 18

branch is a system of _ _ _ _ _ _. Judges and justices in this branch determine facts,
3 15 21 18 20 19

interpret the law, and make rulings on legal cases. The Legislature meets _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
1 14 14 21 1 12 12 25

to discuss laws, change the law, or make new laws. The two bodies of the Legislature are the

_ _ _ _ _ and the _ _ _ _ _ _. Together these houses work to better the lives of the
8 15 21 19 5 19 5 14 1 20 5

people of Florida.

# Solution to Picture Matching

**State Butterfly**
***Zebra Longwing***

**State Bird**
***Mockingbird***

**State Saltwater Mammal**
***Porpoise***

**State Animal**
***Florida Panther***

**State Marine Mammal**
***Manatee***

# Solution to Crossword Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

# Solution to Counting

How many State of Florida flags do you see? 7

How many space shuttles do you see? 4

How many Senate seals do you see? 6

How many pictures in all do you see? 17

# Solution to About Our Government

Florida is the only state in the nation whose CONSTITUTION is reviewed every 20 years. This set of rules determines the State's government and our laws. Our government has three branches. They are the LEGISLATIVE, the EXECUTIVE, and the JUDICIAL branches. The legislature passes LAWS which are carried out by the executive branch. The head of this branch is the GOVERNOR. The judicial branch has a system of COURTS. Judges and justices in this branch determine facts, interpret the law, and make rulings on legal cases. The legislature meets ANNUALLY to discuss laws, change the law, or make new laws. The two bodies of the legislature are the HOUSE and the SENATE. Together these houses work to better the lives of the people of Florida.

We hope you enjoyed learning about
the Florida Senate and the Florida Legislature.

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*Historic information courtesy of the State Library and Archives of Florida*