## FLORIDA'S STATE SYMBOLS



<b>Animal</b> (1982)	FLORIDA PANTHER - A large, long tailed, pale brown cat that grows to six feet or longer. It is the most endangered of all the State symbols. Its habitat is usually the same as that of the white-tailed deer, which is the mainstay of its diet. Protected from hunting since 1958; on the Federal endangered list since 1967; state endangered list since 1973. Estimated population is between 80 and 100.
Beverage (1967)	ORANGE JUICE - During the Second World War, scientists invented a process for making concentrated orange juice. Soon, a frozen concentrate was developed that transformed orange juice production into a multi-billion-dollar industry.
<b>Bird</b> (1927)	MOCKINGBIRD - A superb songbird and mimic. This grey and white bird is about 10" long with a 15" wingspan. Feeds on insects, weeds seeds and berries. Territorial. Also the state bird of Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas and Tennessee.
Butterfly (1996)	<b>ZEBRA LONGWING</b> - Long narrow black wings with distinctive thin yellow bands and one band of yellow dots. Wingspan 3-3.2 inches. Slow, graceful flight. Found throughout the state in hardwood hammocks, thickets, brushy fields, pine-oak woods and gardens; more common in south Florida. Larval plant is the passionvine.
Fish (Freshwater) (1975)	LARGEMOUTH BASS - One of America's most-prized gamefish, the Florida largemouth bass seems to grow to unusually large size in Florida waters. It can reach more than 20" in length and weigh more than fifteen pounds.
Fish (Saltwater) (1975)	<b>SAILFISH</b> - Though not unique to Florida (they are found nearly everywhere in warm ocean waters), Florida sailfishing is legendary especially in the Fort Pierce, Miami and Keys areas during colder months. They can reach speeds of 60 mph. The average size found in Florida is approximately 6'-7' and weigh 30-45 pounds.
<b>Flower</b> (1909)	ORANGE BLOSSOM - The blossom of the orange tree is one of the most fragrant flowers in Florida. The aroma permeates the atmosphere throughout central and south Florida during orange blossom time. This year's blossoms can be seen on trees while last year's crop or oranges are still being picked. Highly prized during the Victorian era by brides.
<b>Gem</b> (1970)	MOONSTONE - Ironically, the moonstone (a form of mineral feldspar) is not found naturally in Floridanor was it found on the moon! However, the legislature adopted it as the state stone to memorialize Apollo 11's flight to the moon, which was launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
Mammal (Marine) (1975)	MANATEE - This gray, waterplant-eating gentle giant, sometimes called a sea cow, can reach 8'-14' in length and can weigh more than a ton. Of all known causes, human's are responsible for half their deaths, frequently because of being struck by boats and barges and propeller blade injuries.

Mammal (Saltwater) (1975)	Alta	<b>PORPOISE OR DOLPHIN</b> - Even the Florida legislature left the issue open, designating the "porpoise, also commonly known as the dolphin," as the official saltwater mammal. Usually in Florida both names refer to the Bottlenose dolphin. This gray mammal can live to the age of thirty and are 6'-8' in length.
Reptile (1987)		ALLIGATOR - Found throughout Florida (and in parts of other southeastern states); they move surprisingly fast over short distances and their powerful jaws and tails make them dangerous to approach. Alligators should not be fed as this causes them to lose their fear of humans (feeding is against Florida statutes).
<b>Shell</b> (1969)		HORSE CONCH - Also known as the giant band shell; native to marine waters around Florida and can grow to a length of 24"/Young horse conchs have orange-colored shells; adults have orange apertures. The word "conch" comes from a Greek word meaning "shell."
<b>Soil</b> (1989)		MYAKKA FINE SAND - This particular type of wet, sandy soil with an organic stained subsoil layer on flatwoods landforms is the largest total acreage in the nation. There are more than one-and-a-half million acres in Florida. Surface layer: gray fine sand. Subsurface: light gray fine sand. Subsoil: dark reddish-brown fine sand with organic stains. Substratum (at depth of 4'): brown and yellowish brown fine sand.
<b>Stone</b> (1979)		AGATIZED CORAL - It takes about 20-30,000,000 years for silica in the ocean water to harden and replace limy corals with a form of quarts known as chalcedony. Agatized coral is found in three main Florida locations: Tampa Bay, the Econfina River, and the Withlacoochee/Suwannee river beds.
<b>Tree</b> (1953)		<b>SABAL PALM</b> - The most widely distributed palm in Florida. Native also to Cuba, the Bahamas, and the coastal Georgia and Carolinas coasts. Also known as Cabbage Palm, it is also the source of swamp cabbage (hearts of palm); harvesting kills the tree. The 1970 legislature mandated that the sabal palm replace the cocoa palm in the state seal.
Wildflower (1991)		coreopsis - This bright yellow-golden colored flower (centers may be black, brown, or yellow and petals can be solid in color or tinged with oranges or reds). Frequently called tickseed (coreopsis means bedbug, apparently referring to the seed shape). Used extensively in Florida's roadside plantings, Florida's Federation of Garden Clubs promoted adoption as the state wildflower. Fourteen species are found in Florida.
Seal	THE STATE OF THE S	In 1985, Secretary of State George Firestone presented the revised Great Seal of the State of Florida to the Governor and Cabinet. The previous State Seal had several errors which were corrected at this time. The revision has a Seminole Indian woman (rather than a Western Plains Indian, the steamboat is more accurate, and the cocoa pal was changed to a sabal palm (as prescribed by the Legislature in 1970)
Other State Symbols		Motto: In God We Trust was adopted in 1868 as part of the State Seal and officially designated as the state's motto in 2006.  Anthem: Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky by Jan Hinton, winner of the online contest to find a new song to represent the state. However, Old Folks at Home by Steven Foster was retained as the "old state song."  Play: In 1973 Cross and Sword was designated as the state play, depicting the story of the Spanish colonization of the nation's first city, St. Augustine.

Source: Florida Department of State (<a href="https://www.flheritage.com/facts/symbols">www.flheritage.com/facts/symbols</a>) Compiled by Maryel Clare for the Florida Master Naturalist Program