



# ARE WE THERE YET? WILDLIFE CORRIDOR DECISIONS

**Task:** Decide where protection of land is most important by analyzing land cover data using the MapMaker interactive map. Map designers developed this land cover data using computer programs and satellite images taken of Earth from space.

Follow the steps below to explore different areas of Florida to determine where wildlife corridors are most urgently needed.

**Check each box as you move through the instructions.**

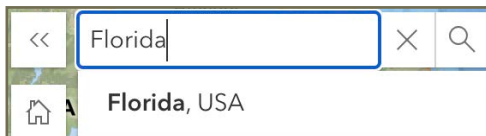
- 1. Go to [MapMaker](#).

- 2. In the bottom menu, select  Basemaps and choose this style of map:  Imagery (labels) shows satellite imagery for the world and includes labels for places, roads, and more.

- 3. Select  Add layer and then search for “land cover.” Click the plus sign on the left to add this layer to your map. Close the box to view the map behind it.



- 4. Click on the Search icon at top left to open the search box and type “Florida.”



- 5. Select  Legend to see the map key. Look for where colors are on the map.



Next you will compare the land cover in two areas of the state: the “panhandle” around the capital city, Tallahassee, and central Florida near Orlando.

- 6. Analyze the map data as you think about the questions below. Record your ideas in the chart. Zoom in and out to look carefully at the data.

FLORIDA PANHANDLE	CENTRAL FLORIDA
What do you notice?	What do you notice?
Describe any patterns you see:	Describe any patterns you see:
What do you wonder? What questions do you have?	What do you wonder? What questions do you have?

If time allows, look closely at Florida to the south of large Lake Okeechobee. What do you notice, and what do you wonder?



Use your ideas from the chart on the previous page and the questions below to help you make the case for where wildlife corridors are most urgently needed at this time.

1. Where do you think wildlife corridors are most urgently needed? Where in Florida do you see the greatest challenges for wildlife to move?
2. Where in Florida does it seem like there is plenty of room for wildlife to roam? Will your recommended wildlife corridors connect any of these places?
3. In addition to the red (built) areas on the map, what other obstacles might wildlife encounter to make their movement difficult or dangerous?
4. Will protecting this land help humans? Why or why not?
5. What challenges might there be when trying to protect this land (e.g., it's privately owned, there is already something built there)?
6. Does exploring and analyzing land cover using the MapMaker interactive map give you a different view of land observed from the ground? Explain.

