**The Piping Plover**

Artist Statement

By

Alyanna S.

I decided to paint the Piping Plover bird because it is an important bird to the Florida environment. This bird an indicator species that allows scientists to assess the condition of an ecosystem.

The Piping Plover also controls the insect and small crustacean population of our beaches. The economic benefits come from the beach cleaning the Piping Plover provides.

**The Florida Panther**

Artist Statement

By

**Zahria Denis**

 The Florida Panther is crucial to Florida because it is a necessary element in the food chain. If the Florida Panther goes extinct, the number of raccoons would go up, which would affect many other animals and humans. They are considered the top predator in South Florida and are very significant in maintaining our environmental balance.