
Beautiful Birds

Reading Comprehension

Flamingos

Flamingos have very long legs and are pink in colour. A flamingo can be 1.5 metres tall, but it only weighs about 3 kilograms. The male flamingo is taller than the female flamingo, and it takes about two years for both genders to reach their full height. What looks like a flamingo's knee is actually their ankle joint. The knee is actually located much closer to the body. In between the flamingo's toes is webbing to help it to swim and stir up food from the bottom of a lagoon or shallow lake.

Baby flamingos are born grey or white. The bright pinkish colour comes later. The pigments in the food that they eat change the colour of their feathers. Flamingos like to eat algae, insect larva, small adult insects, shrimp, and small fish. Flamingos will have either a shallow or a deep-keeled bill. The type of bill a flamingo has will determine the type of food that it will eat. Flamingos with shallow bills will eat fish and shrimp most often. Flamingos with deep-keeled bills will eat algae more often. If you see a flamingo with its head upside down in the water, it is probably eating.

Story Questions:

1. Why does the flamingo have webbing between its toes?
 - a. to help it from falling over
 - b. to help it look different from other flamingos
 - c. to help the flamingo fly
 - d. to help the flamingo swim and stir up food

2. Which is a supporting detail to explain the statement, "The type of bill a flamingo has will determine the type of food that it will eat"?
 - a. Flamingos like to eat algae, insect larvae, small adult insects, shrimp, and small fish.
 - b. Flamingos with shallow bills will eat fish and shrimp most often.
 - c. Flamingos will have either a shallow or a deep-keeld bill.
 - d. If you see a flamingo with its head upside down in the water, it is probably eating.

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3. Which question can you answer after reading this passage about flamingos?
- How does the flamingo protect itself?
 - How many species of flamingos exist?
 - How does a flamingo get its coloured feathers?
 - How does a mother flamingo feed her young?

Journal Writing

4. There is a motivational phrase that says, "Be a flamingo in a flock of pigeons." **Explain** what you think this means and how you could apply it to your life in 5-7 sentences.

Math Worksheet

5. Practise [adding fractions with unlike denominators](#).

Word Problems

6. **Read** the word problems below and **write** the answers.
- ★ Mrs. Flamingo ordered a shrimp and fish pizza for Finn and his brother, Felix, to share. Finn ate $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pizza and Felix ate $\frac{3}{8}$ of the pizza. How much of the pizza did they eat altogether?

 - ★ Mrs. Flamingo also ordered an algae cake for her two sons. Finn ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cake and Felix ate $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cake. How much of the cake did they eat in all?

Fun Stuff!

7. Create your own [origami flamingo](#).