



Especially

for

kids

and their

families



The Mini Page

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By BETTY DEBNAM

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The Bird With the Pink Plumage

Fantastic Flamingos

Flamingos are fun to watch. Their bright pink color and long legs make them stand out in the bird world. Their name comes from the Latin word for flame.



They are such popular birds that people put flamingo decorations in their yards.

There are about six types, or species, of flamingos.

The species are different shades of pink and their feathers form different color patterns. One species' legs are yellow; other species have reddish legs.

Their height can range from about 2½ to 4 feet tall. They often stand on only one leg when they are resting.

Flamingos have webbed feet and feathers that shed water, as do many other water birds. Their closest cousins are ducks, geese and swans.



Chicks, as in the front of this picture, have gray or white feathers until they are 1 to 2 years old.



When it is mating season, hundreds of thousands of flamingos may gather at their breeding grounds. The huge numbers help keep predators from their eggs. Flamingos often split into small groups in the winter.

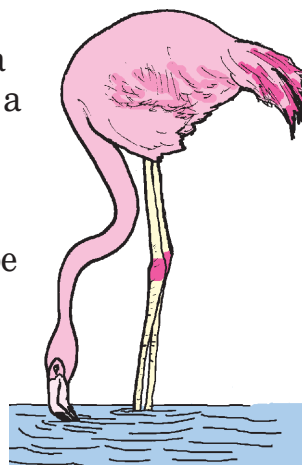
photo by M. DaRocha,
© Wildlife Conservation Society

Color them pink

Flamingo feathers do not start out being pink or red. They turn rosy only when the flamingos eat certain foods.

If they don't eat a diet with enough of a special substance, called a caratenoid (kuh-RAT-n-oyd), their feathers will be white. The substance that turns flamingo feathers pink is the same thing that turns carrots orange or beets red.

But it isn't just in red-colored foods. It can even be in green plants such as grass.



When people first brought flamingos to zoos, they were disappointed when the pretty pink colors were not present when the birds molted, or shed their old feathers and grew new ones. They didn't realize flamingos needed to eat certain foods to stay pink.

This substance can also color other animals, including humans. Some people have eaten so many carrots their skin turned orange!

Flamingo food

Some of the food flamingos eat in the wild include:

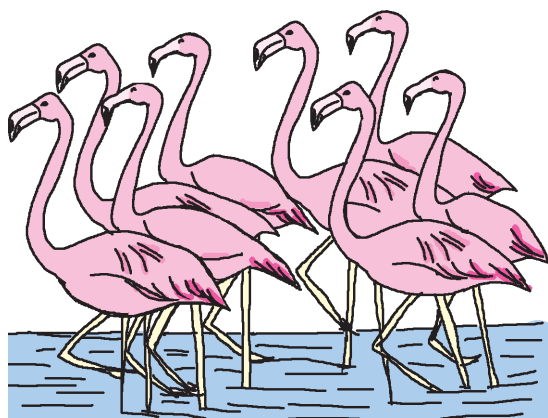
- worms • insects • small shellfish
- small fish • algae, a tiny green water plant • plankton, or tiny microscopic animals and plants, floating in the water.



Flamingo Families

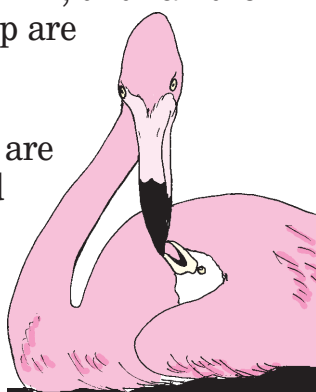
Flamingos on parade

During their mating season, flamingos perform the same actions at the same time, or synchronize their behavior.



A few birds in a group will cause all the others to start moving. They stick their necks up straight, turn their heads to the left and then to the right, and march. Pretty soon the other birds join in, until all the birds in that group are moving together.

This way, their mating behaviors are synchronized, and chicks are born around the same time.



Although flamingo parents might leave their chicks to search for food, they can always find their own chicks when they return. They feed only their own chicks.

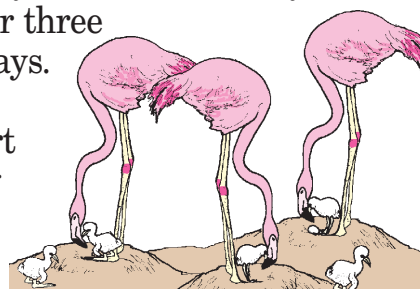
photo © Diane Shapiro, courtesy Wildlife Conservation Society

Caring for chicks

Flamingo parents build tall mud nests on sand banks or in the middle of shallow lakes, so predators have to cross the water to get to the eggs.

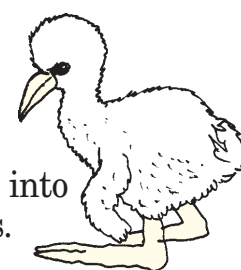
Usually flamingos lay just one egg at a time. Males and females take turns sitting on the nest.

After they hatch, chicks stay in the nest for three to seven days. Then the chicks start wandering around.



Sometimes parents might have to fly some distance to find food for the chicks. But even though the parents may be off finding food, other adults stay with all the chicks.

Both the males and females help with the chicks. They dribble crop milk, a special food, into their chicks' throats. Crop milk is produced in glands in the adults' throats, and is high in fats and proteins.

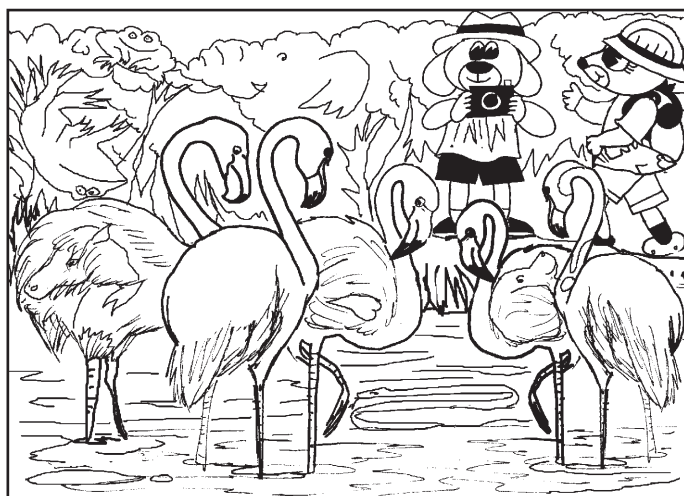


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Mini Spy ...



Mini Spy and Basset Brown are watching some flamingos. See if you can find: • question mark • exclamation mark



- word MINI
- lima bean
- fish
- two frogs
- mushroom
- snake
- elephant's head
- horse's head
- heart
- music note
- puppy face
- carrot

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Flamingos

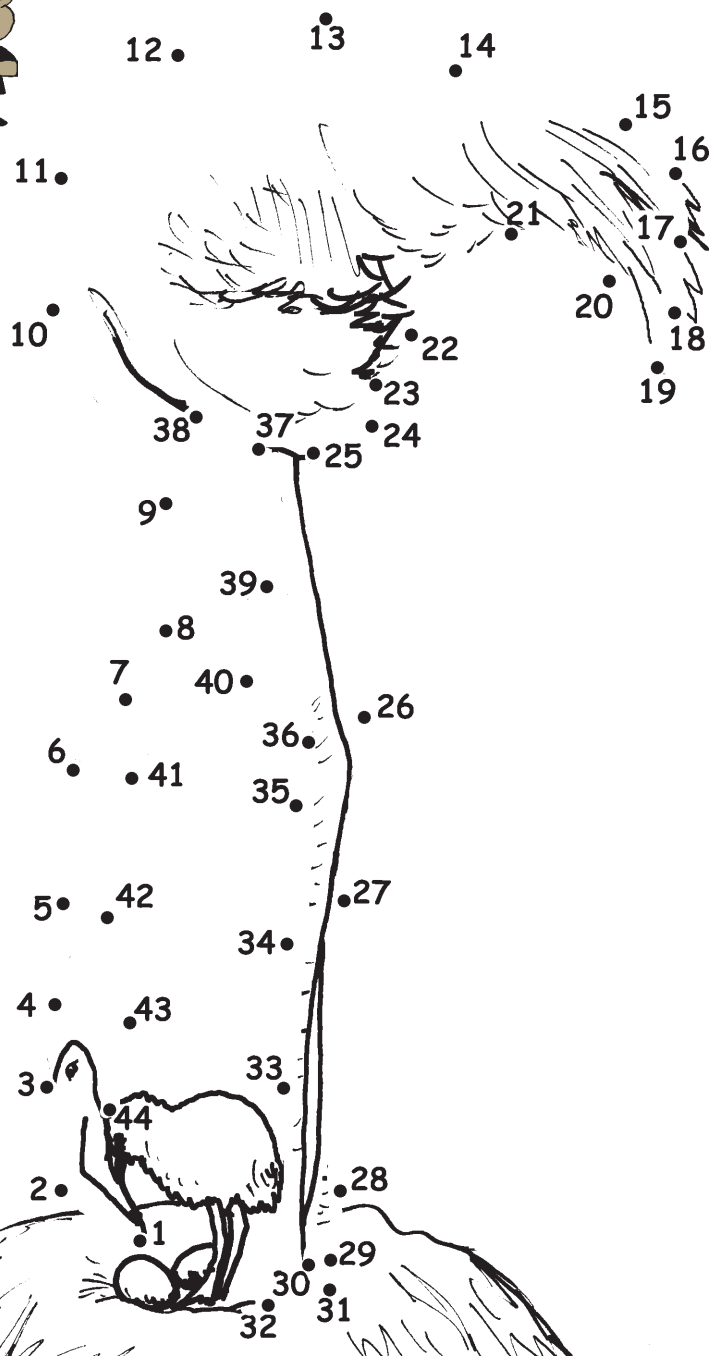
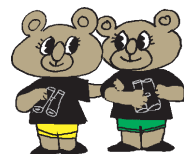
TRY 'N FIND

Words and names that remind us of flamingos are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: WEBBED, GRAY, NEST, FISH, EAT, PINK, BRIGHT, TALL, LONG, BIRD, SPECIES, LEGS, FEATHERS, CHICK, DIET, COLOR, PLANKTON, BILL, FEED, WATER, SALT, PREDATORS, EGG, HABITAT, MUD.



P S R O T A D E R P R E T A W
L H S E I C E P S C R D M U D
A F A B R I G H T C H T I L U
N G I B P L E G S B O I A E K
K E R S I I D R I B I L C L T
T M A A H T N F E E D L O K L
O V L T Y A A K N E S T L R E
N L O N G M C T W E B B E D G
L S R E H T A E F T T L A S G

Go dot to dot and color.



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Easy Cheesy Quiche

You'll need:

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 2 cups cheddar or mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1 deep-dish pie shell, unbaked



What to do:

1. Beat eggs and milk together until well-blended.
2. Add dry mustard, salt, pepper and 1½ cups cheese. Mix well.
3. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Sprinkle top with remaining ½ cup cheese.
4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven on a cookie sheet for 30 to 40 minutes until lightly browned.
5. Slice like a pie and serve warm. Serves 4 to 6.

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Meet Ruben Studdard



Ruben Studdard is a 25-year-old singer from Birmingham, Ala., and the new winner of the Fox television talent show "American Idol."

Ruben has been singing since he was 3 years old, and hopes that he can do it for the rest of his life. He went to Alabama A&M University, where he majored in voice.

In addition to music, Ruben loves sports. He played football in high school and for one year in college. His favorite types of music are gospel, jazz, soul and R&B. His favorite singer is Donnie Hathaway.

He tried out for the "American Idol" show hoping to become a star, and he certainly got his wish!

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The Mini Page Rookie Cookie Cookbook

Easy, everyday recipes designed especially for kids!

- snacks
- soups
- salads
- sandwiches
- breads
- beverages

Ingredients:

- 1) Step-by-step directions
- 2) Measuring tips
- 3) Utensil guide
- 4) Cooking terms
- 5) How to set a table
- 6) Table manners guide

- casseroles
- main dishes
- microwave dishes
- desserts

Encourages kids to read and follow directions!



To order, send \$9.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling for each copy. Send check or money order (U.S. funds only) payable to: **Andrews McMeel Universal, P.O. Box 6814, Leawood, KS 66206** or call toll-free 1-800-591-2097. Please send _____ copies of **The Mini Page Rookie Cookie Cookbook** (Item #4206-8) at \$13.20 each, including postage and handling. (Bulk discount information available upon request.) www.smartwarehousing.com

Name: _____
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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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MIGHTY
FUNNY'S

Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common.
Can you guess the common theme or category?

Henry: Why are saddles so difficult to get along with?

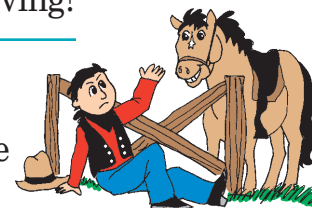
David: Because they stirrup trouble!

Julie: Why did the mare scold her colt?
Janis: For misbehooving!



Sam: How can you tell your horse is polite?

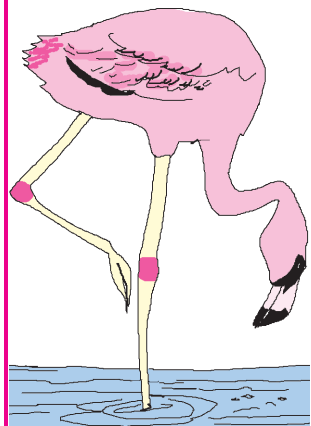
Frank: When you get to the fence, he lets you go over first!



More About Flamingos

Flamingos feeding

Flamingo bills are specially formed to filter out the tiny plants and animals they eat. Flamingos take a big gulp of water and push it out through grooves, or slots, in their bills. The food is trapped in the grooves.



Flamingos stand in the mud and rock from foot to foot. This stirs up the mud so their food comes to the top, while stones and other matter fall to the bottom.

Sometimes they turn their heads upside

down to scoop up food from the water. They might also find food on the surface. Or they might feed like ducks sometimes do, and turn their whole bodies upside down in the water.

They can drink salt water, getting rid of the salt through their nostrils.



Flamingos' curved bills develop as they become adults. Young chicks have bills that are mostly straight.

The Mini Page thanks Dr. Christine Sheppard, curator of birds for the Wildlife Conservation Society/Bronx Zoo, for help with this issue.



Flamingos spend most of their day feeding, caring for their feathers or resting.

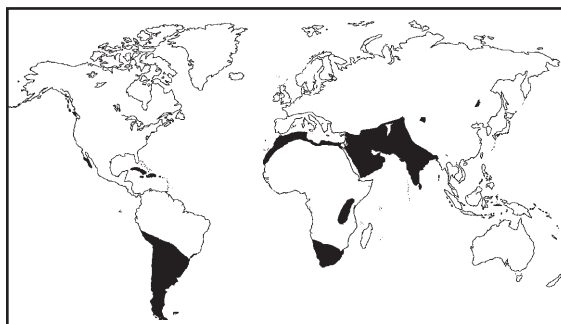
Where flamingos live

Flamingos can live in many types of water: in shallow lakes and lagoons, marshes, fresh water or salt water.

Although they often live in tropical areas, some can survive in deep cold, as long as the water doesn't freeze and prevent them from getting food.

One rare type lives in the high Andes Mountains in South America. The lake water there is so salty it doesn't freeze, even though the temperature falls below 32 degrees, when water usually turns to ice.

Flamingos may fly from one habitat to another. They can fly hundreds of miles in one night.



Flamingos live in the wild in South America, Africa, the Caribbean islands and parts of Asia. In North America, people can see flamingos in zoos and animal parks.

Dangers to flamingos

Predators that eat flamingos or their eggs include vultures, storks, eagles, leopards, cheetahs and ocelots.

But their worst enemies are humans. People collect hundreds of flamingo eggs to eat and sell. Sometimes they collect all the eggs from one group, and then those flamingos don't reproduce.

Pollution can also destroy flamingo habitat. Agricultural chemicals and raw sewage get in the water and destroy their habitat.

Often humans divert needed water for other purposes and destroy flamingos' habitat.

In the Andes, where the flamingos are already rare, gold mining operations destroy the habitats.

Sometimes so many tourists want to see flamingos that they disturb their living space.

Fortunately, no flamingo species is listed as endangered.



Environmentalists are trying to work with people in flamingo areas to keep these beautiful birds safe.

Sites to see: www.wcs.org

www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-flamingo.html

www.seaworld.org

Look through your newspaper and find pictures of things that are colorful in real life.

Next week The Mini Page is all about clouds.

The Mini Page is created and edited by
Betty Debnam

Associate Editors
Tali Denton
Lucy Lien

Staff Artist
Wendy Daley

Read all about
flamingos

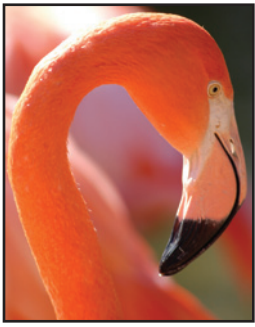


photo © Mary Schwalm, The Fort-Worth Zoo,
courtesy Wildlife Conservation Society

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(Note to Editor: Above is camera-ready, one column-by-4¹/₄-inch ad promoting Issue 31.)

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31-5 (03)

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**Standards Spotlight:
Fantastic Flamingos**

Mini Page activities meet many state and national educational standards. Each week we identify standards that relate to The Mini Page's content and offer activities that will help your students reach them.

This week's standards:


- Students understand the characteristics and life cycles of organisms. (Science: Life Science)
- Students understand the interactions of animals and their environments. (Science: Life Science)

Activities:

1. Make a pink collage: Find pink items in newspaper photos, ads and ad inserts. Put them all together to make a pink poster. Draw a picture of a flamingo and paste it in the middle of your all-pink poster.
2. Suppose you turned colors based on what you ate. Look in the newspaper for three things you would eat if you wanted to turn (a) red, (b) yellow and (c) purple.
3. Make a two-column chart to compare flamingos and ducks. In the first column, list the ways flamingos and ducks are the same. In the second column, list the ways they are different.
4. Create a flamingo circle to gather information about the flamingo. Draw a large circle on a piece of paper. Divide the circle into three parts. In one part, list information about flamingo habitats (where they live); in another part, list the foods they eat; in the last part, list the things that are dangerous for the flamingos.
5. Use resource books and the Internet to learn more about another water bird — a duck, goose or swan. Use the questions to guide your research: How many kinds of this bird exist? Where can you find the birds? What do they eat? How do they eat? What species of the bird have unusual coloring?


(standards by Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)

(Note to Editor: Above is the Standards for Issue 31.)



TM
Gus Goodsport's Report

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Supersport: Tim Duncan



Height: 7-0
Weight: 260

Birthdate: 4-25-76
Home: the Virgin Islands

Tim Duncan says he's afraid of heights. But nobody in professional basketball is flying higher than the San Antonio Spurs superstar. Duncan led San Antonio to its second NBA championship this year. He also sparked the Spurs to the title in 1999. Both years he was named Most Valuable Player of the finals.

Duncan has made the NBA All-Star team each of his six seasons. Smooth as silk, he is a superb all-around player who has averaged about 23 points and 12 rebounds during his pro career.

If it had not been for Hurricane Hugo in 1989, however, Duncan might never have become a basketball player. He was a standout swimmer in the Virgin Islands. But when Hugo destroyed the pool where he trained, Duncan started shooting hoops as a ninth-grader.

He attended Wake Forest University, won National Player of the Year honors and earned a degree in psychology.

With help from his wife, Amy, Tim supports health, education and sports programs for youth through the Tim Duncan Foundation.

(Note to Editor: Above is copy block for Page 3, Issue 31, to be used in place of ad if desired.)

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