

# Flamingo Facts, Quiz, and Coloring Pages

**Baby Flamingos:** Flamingo chicks are born with gray or white feathers, not pink!

**Pink Coloration:** Flamingos get their pink color from their diet. They eat tiny creatures like shrimp and algae that contain carotenoids, which turn their feathers pink.

**Size:** The greater flamingo, the largest species, can grow up to 4.7 feet (1.4 meters) tall.

**Waterproof Feathers:** Flamingos produce a special oil that they spread over their feathers to make them waterproof.

**Flamingo Ears:** Their ears are hidden under their feathers. They don't have external ear structures like mammals do.

**Leg Bending:** When flamingos appear to bend their legs backwards, it's actually their ankle joint bending. Their knee is higher up and hidden by feathers.

**Lifespan:** In the wild, flamingos typically live 25-30 years. In captivity, they can live up to 50 years or more.

**Feet:** Flamingos have webbed feet, which help them swim and walk in muddy waters.

**Species:** There are six species of flamingos in the world.

**Diet:** Flamingos eat tiny shrimp, algae, and other small water creatures rich in carotenoids.

**Flamingo Pose:** Flamingos often stand on one leg. This helps them conserve body heat and energy.

**Upside-Down Eating:** Flamingos feed with their heads upside down in the water. Their bills are specially adapted to filter food from the water.

**Flocking:** Flamingos are very social birds. They can live in flocks of thousands or even millions!

**Flamingo "Milk":** Both male and female flamingos

produce a nutrient-rich liquid called crop milk to feed their chicks.

**Flying Flamingos:** Despite their awkward appearance, flamingos are excellent flyers and can travel up to 35 miles per hour (56 km/h).

**Salty Diet:** Flamingos can drink water that's almost as salty as seawater. They have special glands that remove salt from their bodies.

**Ancient Birds:** Flamingos have been around for a long time. Fossil evidence suggests they existed over 30 million years ago!

**Voice:** Flamingos make a variety of sounds, from grunting and growling to honking, similar to geese.

**Nesting:** Flamingos build mud nests that look like little volcanoes to lay their eggs in.

**Cultural Significance:** Flamingos have been featured in art and culture for thousands of years, from ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics to modern lawn ornaments.



# Word Search!

Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

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

ALGAE  
BEAK  
CAROTENOIDS  
CHICK  
COLORATION  
CRUSTACEANS

FEATHERS  
FILTER  
FLOCK  
HABITAT  
LAKE  
LEGS

MIGRATION  
NEST  
PINK  
SALTWATER  
WADING  
WETLANDS



# Flamingo Quiz!

Here is a short quiz to see how much you know about the flamingos. Answers can be found below (but don't peek before answering!).

**1. Where can flamingos be found?**

- A) Only in Africa
- B) Only in South America
- C) Africa, South America, Europe, and Asia
- D) Only in Asia

**2. How many species of flamingos are there worldwide?**

- A) Four
- B) Six
- C) Eight
- D) Ten

**3. What is the tallest species of flamingo?**

- A) Lesser flamingo
- B) Andean flamingo
- C) Greater flamingo
- D) American flamingo

**4. Why do flamingos have pink feathers?**

- A) It is genetic
- B) From eating foods rich in beta carotene
- C) They are born with pink feathers
- D) From sunlight exposure

**5. What do flamingos eat?**

- A) Fish
- B) Algae, larvae, and brine shrimp
- C) Leaves
- D) Small birds

**6. What kind of feet do flamingos have?**

- A) Clawed feet
- B) Hoofed feet
- C) Webbed feet
- D) None of the above

**7. How long do flamingos usually live in the wild?**

- A) Up to 20 years
- B) 25 to 30 years
- C) 50 years
- D) 75 years

**8. Which part of the flamingo's body bends, giving the illusion of backward-bending knees?**

- A) The knee
- B) The ankle
- C) The hip
- D) The neck

**9. Why do flamingos stand on one leg?**

- A) To rest
- B) To conserve body heat
- C) Because they can only lift one leg
- D) To attract mates

**10. Why do flamingos make special oil?**

- A) To make their feathers pink
- B) To waterproof their feathers
- C) To attract mates
- D) To help them fly better

**11. Do flamingos have ears?**

- A) On the top of their heads
- B) They don't have ears
- C) Underneath their feathers
- D) On the side of their heads

**12. What food makes flamingos pink?**

- A) Red berries
- B) Pink flowers
- C) Carotenoid-rich algae and shrimp
- D) Pink fish

**13. What is a group of flamingos called?**

- A) A flock
- B) A herd
- C) A pack
- D) A flamboyance

**14. What habitat do flamingos need to survive?**

- A) Deep ocean waters
- B) Shallow brackish waters
- C) Tall grasses
- D) Dry deserts

**15. What do flamingo chicks eat?**

- A) Plants
- B) Insects
- C) Crop milk produced by parents
- D) Small fish

















