

ANIMAL FUN FACTS

THE BUTTERFLY

Butterflies do not chew their food. Instead, they soak up nutrients through their proboscis, a tube-like tongue, that works like a straw.

Male butterflies get nutrients that are not available in flowers by drinking from puddles. This butterfly behavior is known as 'puddling'.

Most butterflies fly from 5 to 12 miles per hour. Their wings move in a figure '8' motion.

Metamorphosis, the process through which a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, is completed within 10 to 15 days, depending on the species.

Butterflies have 200 times greater sense of taste than humans and they taste with their feet.

Butterflies communicate with one another by making noises with their wings.

Birds, snakes, lizards, rats, wasps, ants, and certain types of flies are all part of the list of butterfly predators.

Predators classify butterflies into two groups - those that taste delicious and those that taste horrible. It is interesting to know that the prettiest, most vibrantly colored butterfly taste the worst. In fact, these butterflies cause sickness in many predators.

Scales, similar to that of a fish, are what give butterfly wings their color and patterns. They also provide protection and insulation.

Butterflies find nectar in different colored flowers such as zinnias, lilacs, and butterfly fly bush, as well as from rotting fruit, dung, pollen, and tree sap.



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A group of butterflies is called a 'flutter'.

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THE FROG

Frogs do not need to drink water because they absorb it through their skin.

A frog's eyes and nose are on top of their heads in order for them to see and breathe while their bodies are under water.

Frogs eat meat (worms & bugs) and swallow their food whole.

Brightly colored frogs are poisonous to their predators.

Frogs lay up to 4000 eggs when they spawn.

Frogs cannot live in the sea or in salt water.

Scientists can discover a frog's age by studying the rings formed on their bones while in hibernation.

Frogs do not see in color. They only see in black and white.

Frogs can jump up to 20 times their body-length in a single bound.

Long, webbed back feet allow for a frog's ability to swim well and to jump far.

A very long time ago people thought that, because frogs came out in the rain, they fell from rainclouds to the earth.



When a frog swallows its prey, it blinks which pushes its eyeballs on the top of its mouth, helping to push the food down its throat.

Frogs shed their skin at least once a week. Once the old skin has been pulled off, the frog eats it.



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THE FLAMINGO

Flamingos can 'run' on water with their webbed feet.

Flamingos love to eat small insects, shrimp, snails, and algae.

To capture food, flamingos first plunge their heads in the water. Then they twist their head upside down and scoop their food with their upper beak like a shovel.

Flamingo females lay one egg in shallow hole at the top of their nest, which looks like a mound of dirt near waterways.

Flamingo parents take turns sitting on the egg,

When flamingos are first born, their feathers are downy white and their bills are straight. The bill gradually turns downward as the flamingo matures.

Flamingo parents identify their offspring by the sound of their voice.

After about three weeks, as the flamingo matures, their feathers change to gray. The adults herd these young flamingos into large groups called 'crèches' where they begin to learn how to find food on their own.

As adults, flamingo coloring is based on the types of food that they eat. Their bright pink and orange coloring is gauged by the amount of Beta Carotene found in their food source.

The flamingo's webbed feet allow for the bird to stand firm in muddy water.

A flamingo's brain is smaller than its eyes!

Flamingos can survive to become almost 40 years old.
They live in groups called 'colonies' comprised of
50 to one thousand members.

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THE AFRICAN TERMITE

The African Termite build massive earth mounds that can reach heights of 17 feet and require more than 550 pounds of dirt moved in a year. These spectacular mounds house cities of termites, all working together for the survival and benefit of their community as a whole.

The mound's intricate network of tunnels and passages are made of a mixture of soil, termite saliva, and dung. Air travels through small holes in the wall structures, ventilating the entire colony. Six feet below ground level is the cellar, where the termites live in a fascinating and complicated comb-like colony.



African Termites are the first social insects to survive in what is known as a caste system, which means that they are born to assume different roles within the colony.

The colony starts with one pair - a king and a queen.

The **queen** has the longest life span of any known insect on earth. She is also the largest termite because she is swollen with eggs. She can live and reproduce for many years.

The **king** fertilizes the queen and helps to care for the young.

The **larger workers** are termites whose job is to dig and build on the surface of the ground. **Smaller workers** tend to be blind since most of their jobs are inside the dark mound such as making the fungus comb and tending to the larva and reproduction.

The **major soldiers** guard the entrances to the mound. **Smaller soldiers** defend the workers. And they both use tapping signals if they detect a threat.

Termites also use pheromones, special chemical scents to communicate, and create big ecological benefits by recycling dead trees into new soil and aerating the existing soil with their tunnels.



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THE BABOON

A group of baboons is called 'a troop'. Baboon troops can consist of over 250 members.

Baboons are omnivores, which means that they eat plants and animals.

Baboons share 91% DNA similarities to that of humans.

Baboons are extremely social and use grooming, carefully removing ticks, as one way to bond.

Baboons have 340 different sounds they use to communicate - barks, grunts, screams, yawns, and lip smacking to name a few.

Monkeys are classified into two groups - Old World monkeys and New World monkeys. A baboon is an example of an Old World monkey because it lives in Africa.

Old World monkeys have rump pads and pouches in their mouths to store food. New World monkeys do not.

Old World monkeys have close set small, curved nostrils while most New World monkeys have round nostrils that are set apart.

The baboon's primary predators are pythons, crocodiles, eagles, and large cats such as lions, cheetahs, and leopards.

Baboons are what is known as 'terrestrial animals', which means that they live on the ground. Baboons travel long distances every morning and evening in search of food.

Baboons can survive to live up to 45 years in captivity and 30 years in the wild.



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