

# ANIMAL FUN FACTS

## 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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