

Kids Alive

Flamingo FUN

Flamingos are tropical birds that live in lagoons from Florida to the Galapagos Islands in South America. They get their pink color from eating tiny animals that have red coloring. Try the activities and recipes on these pages to find out more about these bright-colored birds.

Find the Bird Words

In the box below, find and circle these 10 words: PINK, TROPICAL, LAGOON, FLAMINGO, plus the six kinds of flamingos: LESSER, GREATER, CARIBBEAN, CHILEAN, ANDEAN, PUNA.

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

Words go down, up, across and diagonally.

Did You Know...

- Flamingos can grow to be 6 feet tall. That's taller than some adult humans.
- Flamingos weigh only 9 pounds at the most. That's as heavy as a big baby.
- Baby flamingos do not look like their parents. Chicks are gray and fluffy with a straight beak.
- Young flamingos have white or pale pink feathers. They don't grow bright pink feathers until age 3 or 4.



www.aza.org/Party-For-The-Planet

*Activities on these pages were created by Loni Luna and printed in the April 2008 Alive magazine of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, which funded the Milwaukee County Zoo's (Wis.) new Caribbean flamingo exhibit that opened in 2008. ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY CREATIVE DEPT.

"Knees" ANSWERS
1. Knee; 2. leg; 3. heel; 4. foot; 5. toes.

Flamingo Food

Are you hungry for a fun flamingo snack?
Try these “pink” recipes.

■ Pink Flamingo Lemonade

- 2 cups cranberry juice
- 2 cups lemon juice
- 2 cups sugar
- 9 cups water

Put all ingredients in pitcher. Using long-handled spoon, stir until sugar dissolves or disappears. Pour into glasses with ice. Makes 14 eight-ounce glasses.

■ Flamingo Smoothie

- 1 frozen banana
- ½ cup fresh or frozen strawberries
- ¾ cup pineapple juice or orange juice
- 1 cup whole milk or vanilla ice cream (optional)

With your parents' permission, blend fruits and juice in blender until smooth, 1 to 2 minutes. Add milk or ice cream, if you want. Makes about 3 cups (if adding milk).

■ Bologna Bird Sandwich

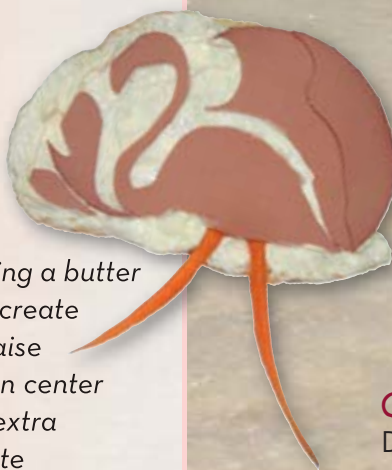
- 1 slice round bologna (about 4-inch diameter)
- 1 rounded slice white bread
- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1 carrot

1. With your parents' permission, print out the flamingo stencil at www.zoosociety.org/funstuff and cut out stencil with scissors.
2. Place stencil in center of bologna. Using a butter knife, carefully cut around stencil to create a bologna flamingo. Spread mayonnaise onto bread. Place bologna flamingo in center of bread on top of mayonnaise. Use extra pieces from the bologna slice to create plants or decorations on bread (see photo).
3. Have a parent cut carrot into a 3-inch-long stick and then cut into two ¼-inch-wide “legs.” Place carrot sticks under bread to create flamingo legs. Makes 1 open-face sandwich.

Go to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Web site for more recipes and flamingo activities: www.zoosociety.org/funstuff.

Why do flamingos have backward knees?

It may look like a flamingo's legs bend backward, but their knees are actually much like yours. The webbed part of the foot is its toes. The part that looks like the backward knee is the heel. From the heel down is the flamingo's foot. The place where the leg connects to the body is the real knee. It bends just like yours. From the heel up to the knee is its leg. Now, try to label this flamingo's leg using these body parts: toes, knee, foot, leg and heel.



Conservation News

Discover all of the exciting conservation work that is going on at AZA accredited institutions in the special 2009 digital edition of AZA's CONNECT magazine at www.azacconnect.com

