

## 'Dancing flamingos'

**Teacher notes:** Pupils, equipped with a flamingo cap, perform a number of activities that mimic flamingo actions and displays. The class discusses why animals behave in certain ways, and how behavioral adaptations help animals to survive. Flamingos perform lots of ritualised displays, almost always in large groups. The displays help groups to stay together and to synchronise breeding.

**Alert posture:** the neck is fully stretched upwards the head held back so that the beak is horizontal.

**Head flagging:** heads are moved from side to side with the bill pointed upwards.

**Wing salute:** the neck is outstretched, the wings are opened fully for a few minutes, the bill is pointed forward, the shoulder feathers are spread and the tail is cocked.

**Twist-preen:** the bird twist its neck back and appears to preen quickly.

**Wing-leg stretch:** the leg and wing on one side of the body are extended backwards.

**Synchronised marching:** a large tightly packed flock march, turn 'about turn' rapidly.



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*Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)*

- [\*\*In the pink flamingos\*\*](http://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/in-the-pink.pdf) (<http://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/in-the-pink.pdf>)  
This factfile describes the characteristics of flamingos, including their specialized feeding and breeding behaviour.

- [\*\*http://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/worksheets-dancing\\_flamingos.pdf\*\*](http://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/worksheets-dancing_flamingos.pdf)

Vocabulary	Structures
Behavior Breeding Forwards / backwards Upwards / downwards To spread To behave To display To stretch To cock To twist To preen To turn about-turn To march	