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HOW THE FROG BECAME THE KING OF RIVERS AND WETLANDS – A Tale from West Africa



This is a story from the times when animals and human beings lived together in harmony. They loved each other and helped each other.

The king of animals then was the elephant . One day he decided that he should also appoint a king of the rivers and wetlands. He thought that a king should be able to tell people in advance when the long-awaited rain  would arrive.  The asked a cock  to convey this message to the animals: anyone who wants to become the king of rivers and wetlands, please come to the king  tomorrow morning!








In the morning, the  watched the incoming candidates. The cat  and the monkey  came, and so did the toad , bullfrog , crab and flamingo . The  considered the advantages and disadvantages of each of the candidates.









To the cat he said, “Dear , you do not like water at all! At the first sight of rain drops , you hide. How can you be the king of the rivers and wetlands?” Thus, the  was rejected.

To the monkey he said: “ I’d love to see you as the king, but you are so playful and forgetful. You always think of jokes, and you forget about important things. I cannot choose you as the king of rivers and wetlands.”

To the flamingo, he said: “, you would be very good for this position. You love rivers, lakes and the seas, but unfortunately you do not have a strong voice. No one would hear you, so I cannot make you the king of rivers and wetlands.” So, the  also failed.

To the crab, he said: “Dear crab, how can I make you the king? You do not have a head to wear the crown.” So the crab also failed in its attempt.

Only the  and the  remained. The  rubbed his head against the trunk of the tree. He said, “I cannot decide between you two. I’m sure you would both be good kings and have wonderful voices.” So the  advised the  to organise a contest and declare the winner as the king. The  agreed: “There will be a race; it will start here and end on the shore . The winner will become the king!”

The race started, and both the  and the  headed to the river. They were jumping and running as fast as they could. The  was faster, but suddenly it found itself in front of a deep moat and was unable to overcome the obstacle. The  caught up and jumped over the moat. It had longer and stronger legs than . Thus, the  reached the river shore first. The  congratulated the bullfrog and crowned it as the king, and said, “Bullfrog, now you are the King of wetlands and rivers, and you will be the first to tell the people that  is coming. Sing as loud as you can and let everyone hear your song!”

Ever since, when people hear the bullfrog croak, they become happy because they know that the dry season is ending, and it will start to rain soon. So they start cultivating their fields and sowing seeds.

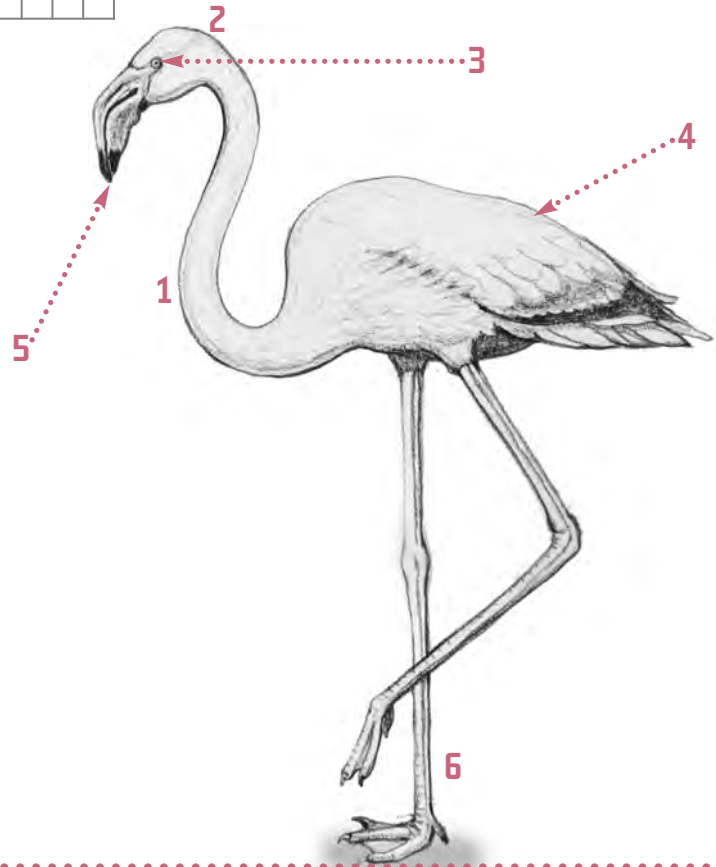


FLAMINGOS

We all know the saying "We are what we eat." For flamingos, it is completely true. Their beautiful pink colour comes from pigments that are contained in their diet (algae and crustaceans).

These pigments are called

Describe the numbered body parts of the flamingo, fill in the crossword puzzle and find the answer.



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The answer is in the secret.

Flamingo fledglings are not pink but gray. They gradually grow pink over a few years. Do you know what a flamingo's nest looks like? Try to assign these nests to their owners.

