

## Scientists find out how flamingos stand on one leg

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Scientists believe they have found how flamingos stand on one leg. We all love the image of these beautiful birds standing in water on just one leg. The reason why the birds do this has puzzled scientists for decades. Researchers in Atlanta, USA, say they have uncovered this secret of the natural world. Professor Young-Hui

Chang says a flamingo can stand on just one leg for many hours because of its skeleton. The flamingo's hips and leg bones are in a special shape and position that give the bird amazing balance. Professor Chang said the flamingo's basic anatomy (bone structure) means it can stand on one leg with ease. Flamingos do not have to use their muscles a lot to do this.

Another researcher, Lena Ting, said the flamingo is very unique because it can stand still for a long time on one leg. He said it would be very difficult for a human to stay still without moving, even for an hour. He said: "Most of us aren't aware that we're moving around all the time." He added that even when we stand still, we actually move and use a lot of energy. The muscles in our body constantly change to keep us straight and stop us from falling over. The position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do not need to use so many muscles to keep still. This means they save energy. The researchers say that saving energy could also be the reason other birds stand and sleep on one leg.

Sources: *ScienceNews.org / bbc.com / express.co.uk*

## Writing

Flamingos are the most beautiful birds in the world. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / flamingos / image / decades / secret / natural world / skeleton / anatomy / unique / difficult / human / moving / energy / change / muscles / bones / sleep

## True / False

- The article says scientists know how one-legged flamingos stand. T / F
- Scientists have wondered why flamingos stand on one leg for centuries. T / F
- A professor said a flamingo's skeleton stops it from standing on one leg. T / F
- A flamingo's hips and bone shape help it balance easily. T / F
- A researcher said it is difficult for humans to stay still without moving. T / F
- Most of us are aware that we are moving all the time. T / F
- Flamingos standing on one leg means they can save energy. T / F
- Other birds may stand and sleep on one leg to save energy. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>believe</b>      | a. special     |
| 2. <b>image</b>        | b. stability   |
| 3. <b>puzzled</b>      | c. conserve    |
| 4. <b>balance</b>      | d. picture     |
| 5. <b>basic</b>        | e. motionless  |
| 6. <b>unique</b>       | f. in fact     |
| 7. <b>all the time</b> | g. fundamental |
| 8. <b>actually</b>     | h. think       |
| 9. <b>still</b>        | i. mystified   |
| 10. <b>save</b>        | j. constantly  |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How unique are you?
- How much moving around do you do during the day?
- When and where do you have to stand or sit still?
- How much do you use your muscles every day?
- How could the human skeleton be better?
- What do you do to save your body's energy?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. We all love the image of                   | a. (bone structure)      |
| 2. puzzled scientists                         | b. bird amazing balance  |
| 3. uncovered this secret of the               | c. muscles               |
| 4. a special shape and position that give the | d. still                 |
| 5. the flamingo's basic anatomy               | e. for decades           |
| 6. the flamingo is very                       | f. use a lot of energy   |
| 7. difficult for a human to stay              | g. these beautiful birds |
| 8. we actually move and                       | h. energy                |
| 9. the birds do not need to use so many       | i. unique                |
| 10. saving                                    | j. natural world         |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of flamingos standing on one leg?
- What do you know about flamingos?
- What do you think of flamingos?
- What natural secrets would you like scientists to unlock?
- How good are you at balancing?
- Have you ever seen a flamingo?
- How long can you stand on one leg for?
- What more would you like to know about flamingos?

## Spelling

- depulzz scientists for decades
- they have uncovered this cteesr
- because of its eklosetn
- give the bird amazing cnaleab
- the flamingo's basic anymaot
- use their sumscel a lot
- the flamingo is very qinuue
- very difficult for a anumh
- we lyuactla move and use a lot of energy
- keep us tghiarts
- The sonipiot of the bones
- the eornsa other birds stand

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. g
6. a	7. j	8. f	9. e	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – In a 5-Star Hotel

You think a 5-star hotel is the best place to sleep. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which of these is the worst (and why): a water bed, the beach or your own bed.

### Role B – On a Water Bed

You think a water bed is the best place to sleep. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which of these is the worst (and why): a 5-star hotel, the beach or your own bed.

### Role C – On the Beach

You think the beach is the best place to sleep. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which of these is the worst (and why): a water bed, a 5-star hotel or your own bed.

### Role D – In Your Own Bed

You think your own bed is the best place to sleep. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which of these is the worst (and why): a water bed, the beach or a 5-star hotel.

## Speaking – Sleep

Rank these with your partner. Put the best place to sleep at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| • on a water bed    | • on one leg  |
| • on the beach      | • standing up |
| • in a 5-star hotel | • upside down |
| • in your own bed   | • in a tent   |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.