



Drawn from Nature by J. J. Audubon, F. R. S. F. L. S.

Engraved, Printed and Coloured by Ralph Havell, 1838

- 1. Profile view of Bill at its greatest extension.
- 2. Superior, front view of upper Mandible.
- 3. Inferior, front view of upper Mandible.
- 4. Inferior, front view of lower Mandible.
- 5. Inferior, front view of lower Mandible with the Tongue in.

*American Flamingo.*  
 PHENICOPTERUS RUBER, Linn.  
 Old Male

- 6. Profile view of Tongue.
- 7. Superior, front view of Tongue.
- 8. Inferior, front view of Tongue.
- 9. Perpendicular front view of the Feet, fully expanded.

# American Flamingo

LOOK  
THINK  
DO



## American Flamingo

(Plate 431) from 'Birds of America'

Made by: John James Audubon (1785–1851)

Produced between: 1827– 1830

Engraved and hand-coloured printed plate (page)

1m x 75cm closed

This print of an American flamingo is by John James Audubon and is part of his work '*Birds of America*' (1826–1838). '*Birds of America*' is one of the greatest treasures of the Department of Manuscripts and Printed Books at The Fitzwilliam Museum, and was one of the first things bought for the Museum. The five volumes contain 435 engraved hand-coloured pictures and are so large that when they are opened they are approximately the size of a coffee table. The plates were printed on the largest possible size of paper, called double elephant folio, and the books are a whopping 1m x 75 cm when closed.

In 1820, Audubon declared that he would paint every bird in North America, and devoted the next twenty years of his life to this obsession. At first Audubon was unable to find funding to have his enormous work printed, so he travelled to Britain to stir up interest with exhibitions of drawings and sold animal skins and feathers. Audubon's influence was far-reaching, and his field notes made when observing the birds have made a significant contribution to the understanding of bird anatomy and behaviour. Charles Darwin even quoted him three times in '*On the Origin of Species*' and in later works.

# American Flamingo

LOOK THINK DO



## Look

Look at the shape this flamingo is making. Can you make the same shape with your body?



## Do

Go birdwatching out of your window. Try this handy Open Your Window Bingo from our friends at The Museum of Zoology. Record the types of birds you see and take note of how many points you get. You could draw what you see.

## Think

Are there any clues in the picture about what habitat (place) flamingos live in? Think about the different places animals live. How many different animal habitats can you think of where you live?



## Tiny Tweaks

If drawing birds is difficult for your little one, don't worry - there are lots of different ways to draw. Use a pencil like a woodpecker's beak pecking, like an owl's talons scratching, or like a flamingo's feather falling.

It doesn't matter what the finished product looks like, it's fun to explore different ways of making marks.

# American Flamingo

LOOK THINK DO



The  
Fitzwilliam  
Museum  
CAMBRIDGE

## Activity

Draw in the body of the flamingo.