

Flamingos are pink because of their diet

In the Zoo we feed them **pellets** with colour pigments called carotenoids to help them stay pink. But in the wild...

Their pinkness comes from carotenoids

These pigments are turned into a specific red pigment, called canthaxanthin, in their livers.

They have both pink skin and feathers



They get the carotenoids by eating organisms like brine shrimp

The pigments enter their system when they filter feed on brine shrimp, algae and crustaceans.

The shrimp are also pink because of their diet.



Shrimp get the carotenoids by eating algae and bacteria

Algae and bacteria contain carotenoids. They help absorb sunlight to convert into energy for the plants to grow.

Which is why flamingos are pink!



Chicks hatch pale grey

They're fed on crop milk from their parents. It's pink! After looking after a chick, the parents can be a bit paler. This is because of passing on the pink to their chick.