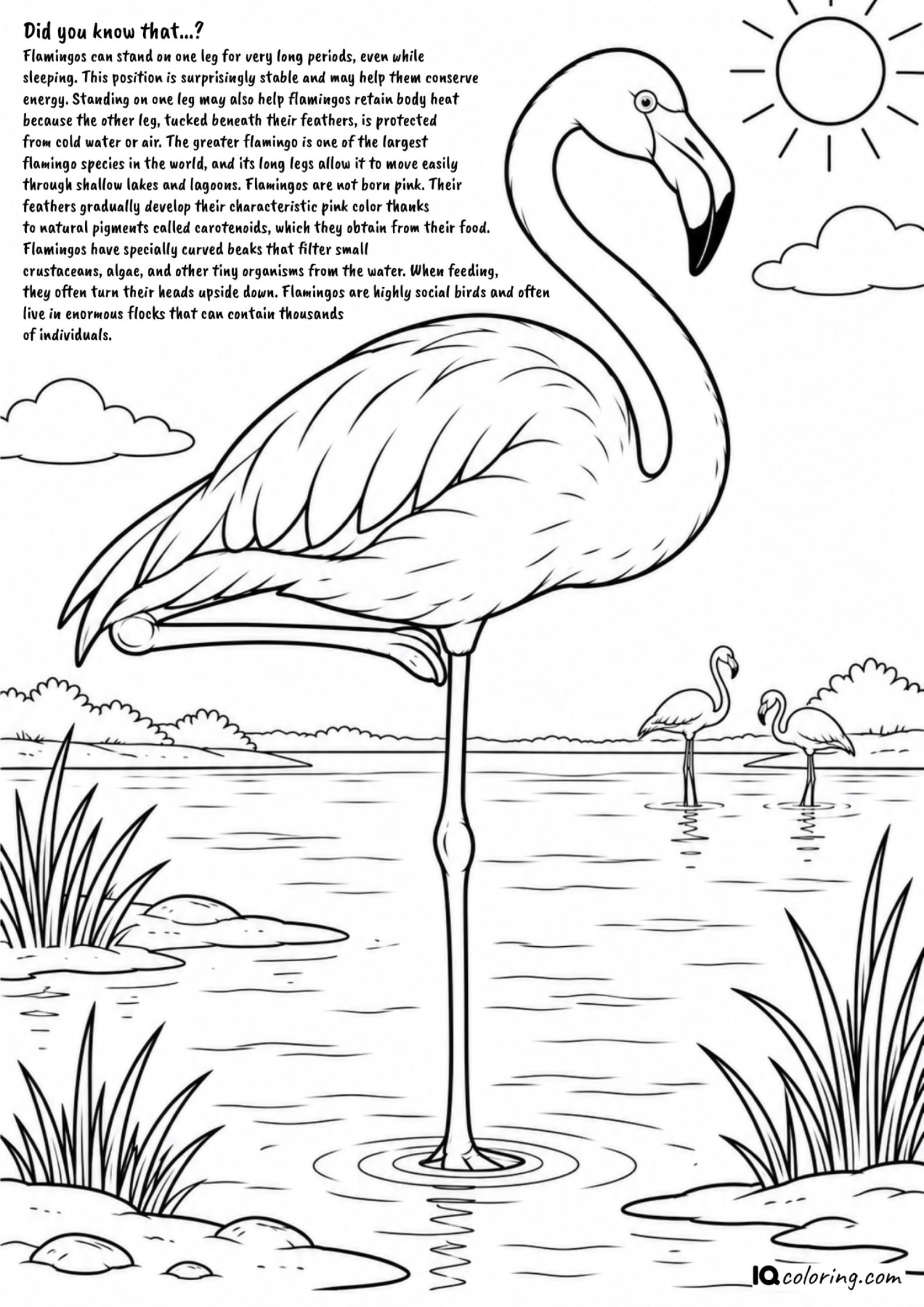
Did you know that...?

Flamingos can stand on one leg for very long periods, even while sleeping. This position is surprisingly stable and may help them conserve energy. Standing on one leg may also help flamingos retain body heat because the other leg, tucked beneath their feathers, is protected from cold water or air. The greater flamingo is one of the largest flamingo species in the world, and its long legs allow it to move easily through shallow lakes and lagoons. Flamingos are not born pink. Their feathers gradually develop their characteristic pink color thanks to natural pigments called carotenoids, which they obtain from their food. Flamingos have specially curved beaks that filter small crustaceans, algae, and other tiny organisms from the water. When feeding, they often turn their heads upside down. Flamingos are highly social birds and often live in enormous flocks that can contain thousands of individuals.



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