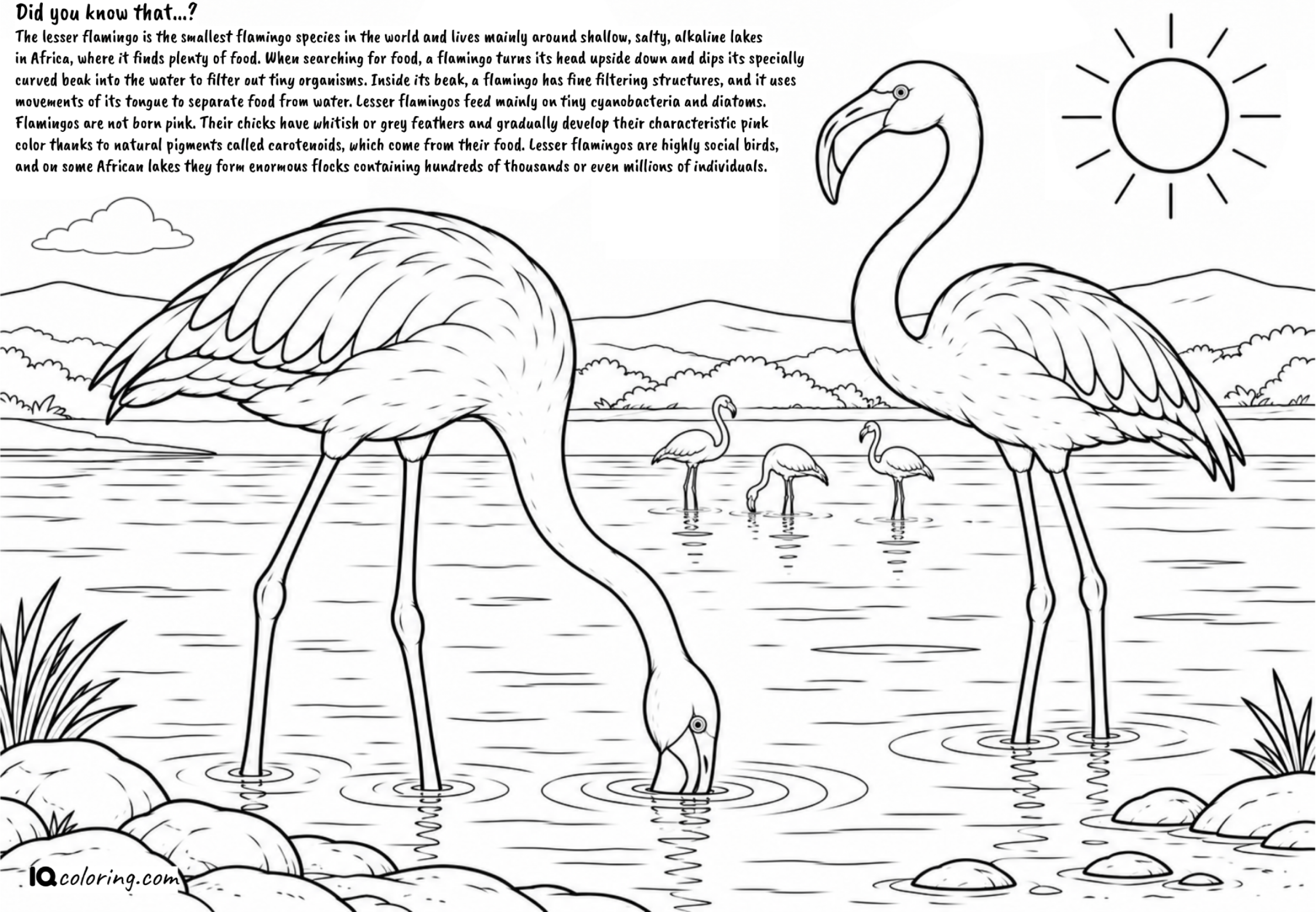
## Did you know that...?

The lesser flamingo is the smallest flamingo species in the world and lives mainly around shallow, salty, alkaline lakes in Africa, where it finds plenty of food. When searching for food, a flamingo turns its head upside down and dips its specially curved beak into the water to filter out tiny organisms. Inside its beak, a flamingo has fine filtering structures, and it uses movements of its tongue to separate food from water. Lesser flamingos feed mainly on tiny cyanobacteria and diatoms. Flamingos are not born pink. Their chicks have whitish or grey feathers and gradually develop their characteristic pink color thanks to natural pigments called carotenoids, which come from their food. Lesser flamingos are highly social birds, and on some African lakes they form enormous flocks containing hundreds of thousands or even millions of individuals.



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