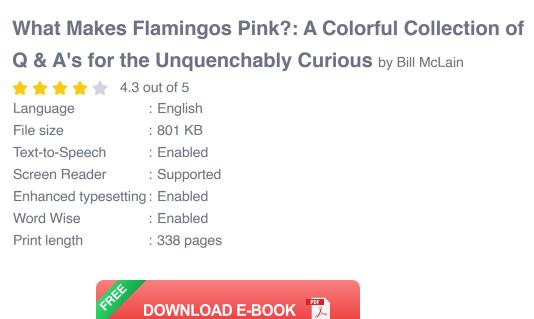
## What Makes Flamingos Pink?

Flamingos are one of the most iconic birds in the world, and their bright pink feathers are a major part of their appeal. But what exactly makes flamingos pink?





The answer lies in their diet. Flamingos eat a variety of foods, including algae, shrimp, and brine flies. These foods contain pigments called carotenoids, which are responsible for the pink color of flamingos' feathers.

Carotenoids are fat-soluble pigments that are found in plants and algae. When flamingos eat these foods, the carotenoids are absorbed into their bloodstream and deposited in their feathers. The amount of carotenoids in a flamingo's diet determines the intensity of its pink color.

Flamingos that eat a lot of carotenoids will have bright pink feathers, while flamingos that eat less carotenoids will have paler feathers. The color of a

flamingo's feathers can also change depending on the season. During the breeding season, flamingos will eat more carotenoids in Free Download to attract mates. This results in brighter pink feathers that are more likely to attract a mate.

In addition to carotenoids, flamingos also produce a pigment called melanin. Melanin is responsible for the black color of flamingos' wings and legs. The amount of melanin in a flamingo's feathers can vary depending on the individual bird.

The combination of carotenoids and melanin gives flamingos their unique pink color. Flamingos are the only birds in the world that have pink feathers, and this is due to their unique diet and physiology.

Flamingos are fascinating creatures, and their pink feathers are just one of the things that makes them so special. If you ever have the chance to see a flamingo in the wild, be sure to take a moment to admire its beautiful pink feathers.

## **Additional Information**

- Flamingos can live for up to 50 years.
- Flamingos are social animals and live in large flocks.
- Flamingos are filter feeders and use their beaks to filter food from the water.
- Flamingos are found in tropical and subtropical regions around the world.
- There are six species of flamingos in the world.

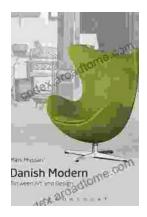
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What Makes Flamingos Pink?: A Colorful Collection of Q & A's for the Unquenchably Curious by Bill McLain

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