



Animal Tails:

explorations of the animal world through connections to literature



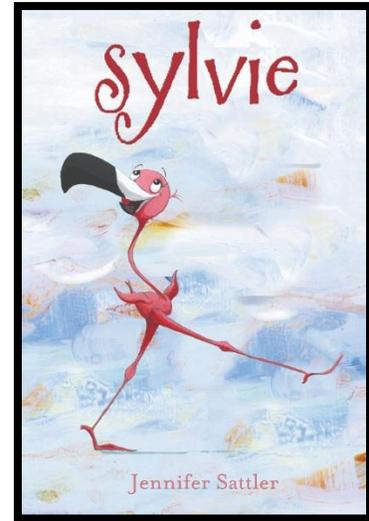
Sylvie

by Jennifer Sattler

Age: PreK-5

Gather your Gear

- Sylvie book or log on to watch the storybook reading
- A bucket/tub (at least 6 inches deep and large enough for your feeder tools to move in)
- Feeder tools: tweezers, sieve/strainer, fork and spoon.
- Simulated food: dry herbs (such as oregano)
- Paper and pencil for observation notes



Get Ready

You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before reading the story.

- What types of animals have you seen at a zoo?
- What color are the flamingos?
- What do their beaks look like?

Read

Read the book, stopping to explore key story ideas. Below are some prompts to help guide you.

- Do flamingos hang out alone or in big groups?
- What do flamingos eat and where do they find it?
- What is your favorite food?

Reflect

Briefly discuss what was important or what we learned. Below are some questions to guide you.

- How did Sylvie feel after trying so many different foods?
- What does Sylvie learn after trying all the different foods?



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Relate

Create connections to the idea through activities

Activity: Let's eat!

In this activity you will explore the feeding structures of flamingos using household tools.

1. Gather all your materials and make sure to be on a surface that can get wet, as spills may occur.
2. Fill the bucket/tub with water. We recommend a container that is at least 6 inches deep that the feeder tools can move freely in.
3. Place the "food" medium in the water. You can use any small medium to represent food as long as it suspends in or floats on top of the water. An extension of this activity would be to try lots of mediums and record which work the best to mimic flamingo food, prompting a discussion on why some float, sink, or sit on top.
4. Take each of your feeding tools and try to pick the food out of the water. Discuss which one works the best to get the most food at one time. You can record your observations on a piece of paper.
5. When you have finished, look at the data you collected and discuss which tool works the best. It's important to remember that flamingos are efficient eaters, so the tool that collects the most at one time mimics flamingo feeding the best.

Did you know: Flamingos are found on many continents around the globe. In fact, there are six species of flamingos.

- **The Chilean**, which is the species we have at Zoo Atlanta, in the wild inhabit high elevations in the southern Andes Mountains.
- **The Greater** is the largest species of flamingo and can be found in Africa, Asia and parts of Europe.
- **The Lesser** is the smallest of all the species and can be found in India, Asia and parts of Africa.
- **The Andean** live along the Andes mountain range from Argentina to Chile.
- **The James or Puna** inhabit mountain lakes and lagoons of Peru, Argentina and Chile.
- **The American or Caribbean** live in the Americas and are considered a subspecies of the greater flamingo.



Feeding facts: All flamingos use their specialized beaks to filter food from the water, similarly to baleen whales. Flamingos invert their heads and sweep their bills sideways through the water to collect food. Specialized slits in the beak act as a filter, similarly to the baleen of a whale, and enable the birds to consume even very small food items. Some examples of flamingo food are brine shrimp, diatoms and aquatic plants.



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Flamingo Fun Facts:

- Flamingos' pink color comes from the beta carotene in their food.
- The joint that is often mistaken for the knee is actually an ankle.
- The reason why flamingos often rest or sleep standing on one leg is unclear, but this may be a mechanism for heat retention.

It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If you or your family are on social media, post pictures of your activity to share with your family and friends what you have learned. Use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more....

- Go to Zoo Atlanta’s website to learn about the Chilean flamingos who live at Zoo Atlanta:
<https://zooatlanta.org/animal/chilean-flamingo/>
- Check out Zoo Atlanta’s YouTube page for videos featuring our Chilean flamingos:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1d5bkhX3DGMgBFOQtI5Sw>
- Another great site for information is National Geographic Kids:
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/flamingo/>