

**American Flamingo, 1838 by John James Audubon [1785–1851]**

1. What do you notice first when you look at this print.
2. Describe how Audubon emphasized the largest flamingo.
3. Where are there patterns on this bird?
4. What is in the background of this print?
5. What are the birds doing in this image?
6. Describe how Audubon indicated the large size of the flamingo's natural habitat.
7. Audubon gave the flamingo its character by drawing many kinds of lines. Identify some of the different kinds of lines in the bird.
8. What do you think the sketches at the top represent?
9. Can you speculate about why they have been left in the print?
10. Why do you think Audubon painted his subjects life-size rather than just creating smaller pictures of them?
11. Why do you think that Audubon positioned the flamingo like this with its neck bent down?
12. Explain what makes this print artwork rather than just a scientific illustration.
13. Do you think this flamingo looks alive or dead?
14. Why were Audubon and other artists intent on documenting American wildlife at this time in America's history?

**Historical Connections:** Jacksonian era

**Geography:** Florida Keys (Indian Key—natural habitat of the North American flamingo, now extinct.)

**Science:** classification of species; conservation and protection of species; birds

**Literary Connections and Primary Documents:** *My Style of Drawing Birds*, John James Audubon