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Level 3

Scientists find out how flamingos stand on one leg

26th May, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Scientists believe they have found how flamingos stand on one leg. We all love the image of these beautiful birds standing in water on just one leg. The reason why the birds do this has puzzled scientists for decades. Researchers in Atlanta, USA, say they have uncovered this secret of the natural world. Professor Young-Hui Chang says a flamingo can stand on just one leg for many hours because of its skeleton. The flamingo's hips and leg bones are in a special shape and position that give the bird amazing balance. Professor Chang said the flamingo's basic anatomy (bone structure) means it can stand on one leg with ease. Flamingos do not have to use their muscles a lot to do this.

Another researcher, Lena Ting, said the flamingo is very unique because it can stand still for a long time on one leg. He said it would be very difficult for a human to stay still without moving, even for an hour. He said: "Most of us aren't aware that we're moving around all the time." He added that even when we stand still, we actually move and use a lot of energy. The muscles in our body constantly change to keep us straight and stop us from falling over. The position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do not need to use so many muscles to keep still. This means they save energy. The researchers say that saving energy could also be the reason other birds stand and sleep on one leg.

Sources: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/how-flamingo-balances-one-leg>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-40016816>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/808240/flamingos-one-leg-Iconic-pose-animal-kingdom-explained-research>

WARM-UPS

1. FLAMINGOS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about flamingos. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

scientists / flamingos / image / decades / secret / natural world / skeleton / anatomy / unique / difficult / human / moving / energy / change / muscles / bones / sleep

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. RESEARCH: Students A **strongly** believe doing research on flamingos is better than doing research on humans; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. BONES: How important are these bones in our body? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Bone(s)	Function	How useful?
Hip		
Skull		
Ankle		
Vertebrae		
Ribs		
Femur		

5. BIRD: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "bird". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SLEEP: Rank these with your partner. Put the best place to sleep at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- on one leg
- standing up
- upside down
- in a tent
- on a water bed
- on the beach
- in a 5-star hotel
- in your own bed

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article says scientists know how one-legged flamingos stand. **T / F**
- b. Scientists have wondered why flamingos stand on one leg for centuries. **T / F**
- c. A professor said a flamingo's skeleton stops it from standing on one leg. **T / F**
- d. A flamingo's hips and bone shape help it balance easily. **T / F**
- e. A researcher said it is difficult for humans to stay still without moving. **T / F**
- f. Most of us are aware that we are moving all the time. **T / F**
- g. Flamingos standing on one leg means they can save energy. **T / F**
- h. Other birds may stand and sleep on one leg to save energy. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. believe | a. special |
| 2. image | b. stability |
| 3. puzzled | c. conserve |
| 4. balance | d. picture |
| 5. basic | e. motionless |
| 6. unique | f. in fact |
| 7. all the time | g. fundamental |
| 8. actually | h. think |
| 9. still | i. mystified |
| 10. save | j. constantly |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. We all love the image of | a. (bone structure) |
| 2. puzzled scientists | b. bird amazing balance |
| 3. uncovered this secret of the | c. muscles |
| 4. a special shape and position that give the | d. still |
| 5. the flamingo's basic anatomy | e. for decades |
| 6. the flamingo is very | f. use a lot of energy |
| 7. difficult for a human to stay | g. these beautiful birds |
| 8. we actually move and | h. energy |
| 9. the birds do not need to use so many | i. unique |
| 10. saving | j. natural world |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Scientists believe they have found how flamingos stand on one leg. We all (1) _____ the image of these beautiful birds standing in water on just one leg. The (2) _____ why the birds do this has puzzled scientists for (3) _____. Researchers in Atlanta, USA, say they have uncovered this (4) _____ of the natural world. Professor Young-Hui Chang says a flamingo can stand on just one leg for many hours because of its (5) _____. The flamingo's hips and leg bones are in a special shape and position that give the bird amazing (6) _____. Professor Chang said the flamingo's basic anatomy ((7) _____ structure) means it can stand on one leg with ease. Flamingos do not have to use their (8) _____ a lot to do this.

reason
balance
secret
muscles
love
bone
decades
skeleton

Another researcher, Lena Ting, said the flamingo is very (9) _____ because it can stand still for a long (10) _____ on one leg. He said it would be very difficult for a human to stay still without moving, (11) _____ for an hour. He said: "Most of us aren't aware that we're moving around all the time." He added that even when we stand still, we actually move and use a lot of (12) _____. The muscles in our body constantly change to keep us (13) _____ and stop us from falling over. The (14) _____ of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do not need to use so many muscles to keep (15) _____. This means they save energy. The researchers say that saving energy could also be the (16) _____ other birds stand and sleep on one leg.

time
position
energy
reason
unique
still
straight
even

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

- 1) We all love the image of these beautiful birds _____
 - a. standing water
 - b. stand in in water
 - c. standing in water
 - d. standing on water
- 2) The reason why the birds do this has puzzled scientists _____
 - a. for decade
 - b. for decadence
 - c. for decades
 - d. for decays
- 3) Chang says a flamingo can stand on just one leg for many hours _____
 - a. because for its skeleton
 - b. because of its skeleton
 - c. because off its skeleton
 - d. because if its skeleton
- 4) a special shape and position that give the bird _____
 - a. amaze in balance
 - b. amazing balance
 - c. amazed in balance
 - d. a maze in balance
- 5) Flamingos do not have to use their muscles _____
 - a. a lot to do this
 - b. a lot to do these
 - c. a lots to do this
 - d. the lot to do this
- 6) Another researcher, Lena Ting, said the flamingo _____
 - a. is very unique
 - b. is very uniquely
 - c. is very you nick
 - d. is veryily you nick
- 7) He said it would be very difficult for a human _____
 - a. to stay still
 - b. to stayed still
 - c. to staid still
 - d. to stray still
- 8) The muscles in our body constantly change to keep us straight and stop _____
 - a. us from falling in
 - b. us from falling other
 - c. us from falling river
 - d. us from falling over
- 9) the birds do not need to use so many muscles _____
 - a. to keeps still
 - b. to keeps till
 - c. to keep still
 - d. to keep till
- 10) The researchers say that saving energy could also _____
 - a. be this reason
 - b. be the reason
 - c. be a reason
 - d. be then reason

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Scientists believe they have found how flamingos (1) _____. We all love the image of these beautiful birds standing in water on just one leg. The (2) _____ birds do this has puzzled scientists for decades. Researchers in Atlanta, USA, say they (3) _____ this secret of the natural world. Professor Young-Hui Chang says a flamingo can stand on just one leg for many hours because (4) _____. The flamingo's hips and leg bones are in a special shape and position that give the bird (5) _____. Professor Chang said the flamingo's basic anatomy (bone structure) means it can stand on one (6) _____. Flamingos do not have to use their muscles a lot to do this.

Another researcher, Lena Ting, said the flamingo (7) _____ because it can stand still for a long time on one leg. He said it would be very difficult (8) _____ stay still without moving, even for an hour. He said: "Most of (9) _____ that we're moving around all the time." He added that even when we stand still, we actually move and use a lot of energy. The muscles (10) _____ constantly change to keep us straight and stop us from falling over. The position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do not need (11) _____ muscles to keep still. This means they save energy. The researchers say that saving energy (12) _____ the reason other birds stand and sleep on one leg.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

1. What does the article say we all love?
2. For how long have scientists been puzzled about flamingos?
3. Where in the U.S.A. are the researchers from?
4. What bone (apart from leg bones) helps the flamingo stand on one leg?
5. What do flamingos not have to use a lot of?
6. What adjective did Lena Ting use to describe the flamingo?
7. How long would it be difficult for a human not to move for?
8. What do we use a lot of, even when we stand?
9. What do the muscles in our body constantly do to keep us straight?
10. What other creatures did the article say stood and slept on one leg?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

- 1) What does the article say we all love?
 - a) water
 - b) images of flamingos
 - c) standing on one leg
 - d) reasons
- 2) For how long have scientists been puzzled about flamingos?
 - a) centuries
 - b) since 1879
 - c) 17 years
 - d) decades
- 3) Where in the U.S.A. are the researchers from?
 - a) New Mexico
 - b) Albuquerque
 - c) Atlanta
 - d) New York
- 4) What bone (apart from leg bones) helps the flamingo stand on one leg?
 - a) hip
 - b) skull
 - c) femur
 - d) rib
- 5) What do flamingos not have to use a lot of?
 - a) standing
 - b) muscles
 - c) flying
 - d) time
- 6) What adjective did Lena Ting use to describe the flamingo?
 - a) unique
 - b) watery
 - c) still
 - d) birdlike
- 7) How long would it be difficult for a human not to move for?
 - a) 12 minutes
 - b) 38 minutes
 - c) one hour
 - d) 47 minutes
- 8) What do we use a lot of, even when we stand?
 - a) energy
 - b) money
 - c) time
 - d) thought
- 9) What do the muscles in our body constantly do to keep us straight?
 - a) flex
 - b) stay still
 - c) twitch
 - d) change
- 10) What other creatures did the article say stood and slept on one leg?
 - a) elephants
 - b) insects
 - c) other birds
 - d) bats

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Role A – In a 5-Star Hotel

You think a 5-star hotel is the best place to sleep. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which of these is the worst (and why): a water bed, the beach or your own bed.

Role B – On a Water Bed

You think a water bed is the best place to sleep. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which of these is the worst (and why): a 5-star hotel, the beach or your own bed.

Role C – On the Beach

You think the beach is the best place to sleep. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which of these is the worst (and why): a water bed, a 5-star hotel or your own bed.

Role D – In Your Own Bed

You think your own bed is the best place to sleep. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which of these is the worst (and why): a water bed, the beach or a 5-star hotel.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'one' and 'leg'.

one	leg
------------	------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• love• puzzled• secret• special• basic• ease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• unique• difficult• even• change• energy• sleep
--	---

FLAMINGOS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Write five GOOD questions about flamingos in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

FLAMINGOS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'flamingo'?
3. What do you think of flamingos standing on one leg?
4. What do you know about flamingos?
5. What do you think of flamingos?
6. What natural secrets would you like scientists to unlock?
7. How good are you at balancing?
8. Have you ever seen a flamingo?
9. How long can you stand on one leg for?
10. What more would you like to know about flamingos?

Scientists find out how flamingos stand on one leg – 26th May, 2017
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FLAMINGOS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'secret'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How unique are you?
15. How much moving around do you do during the day?
16. When and where do you have to stand or sit still?
17. How much do you use your muscles every day?
18. How could the human skeleton be better?
19. What do you do to save your body's energy?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Scientists (1) _____ they have found how flamingos stand on one leg. We all love the image of these beautiful birds (2) _____ in water on just one leg. The reason why the birds do this has puzzled scientists (3) _____ decades. Researchers in Atlanta, USA, say they have uncovered this secret (4) _____ the natural world. Professor Young-Hui Chang says a flamingo can stand on just one leg for many hours because of its skeleton. The flamingo's hips and leg bones are in a special shape and position (5) _____ give the bird amazing balance. Professor Chang said the flamingo's basic anatomy (bone structure) means it can stand on one leg with (6) _____. Flamingos do not have to use their muscles a lot to do this.

Another researcher, Lena Ting, said the flamingo is very (7) _____ because it can stand still for a long time on one leg. He said it would be very difficult for a human to stay still (8) _____ moving, even for an hour. He said: "Most of us aren't aware that we're moving around (9) _____ the time." He added that even when we stand still, we actually move and use a lot of energy. The muscles (10) _____ our body constantly change to keep us straight and stop us from falling over. The position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do not need to use (11) _____ many muscles to keep still. This means they save energy. The researchers say that saving energy could also be the reason (12) _____ birds stand and sleep on one leg.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) belief | (b) believer | (c) believing | (d) believe |
| 2. | (a) standard | (b) standstill | (c) stood | (d) standing |
| 3. | (a) in | (b) for | (c) to | (d) by |
| 4. | (a) at | (b) on | (c) of | (d) to |
| 5. | (a) what | (b) such | (c) that | (d) them |
| 6. | (a) ease | (b) easily | (c) easiest | (d) easier |
| 7. | (a) unclear | (b) unique | (c) union | (d) unequal |
| 8. | (a) without | (b) within | (c) wither | (d) with |
| 9. | (a) whole | (b) all | (c) entire | (d) really |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) by | (c) in | (d) up |
| 11. | (a) such | (b) see | (c) so | (d) some |
| 12. | (a) the others | (b) others | (c) another | (d) other |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Paragraph 1

1. depulzz scientists for decades
2. they have uncovered this cteesr
3. because of its eklosetn
4. give the bird amazing cnaleab
5. the flamingo's basic anymaot
6. use their sumscel a lot

Paragraph 2

7. the flamingo is very qinuue
8. very difficult for a aunmh
9. we lyuactla move and use a lot of energy
10. keep us tghiarts
11. The sonipiot of the bones
12. the eornsa other birds stand

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () decades. Researchers in Atlanta, USA, say they have uncovered this secret of the natural world. Professor
- () birds standing in water on just one leg. The reason why the birds do this has puzzled scientists for
- () on one leg with ease. Flamingos do not have to use their muscles a lot to do this.
- () when we stand still, we actually move and use a lot of energy. The muscles in our body constantly
- (**1**) Scientists believe they have found how flamingos stand on one leg. We all love the image of these beautiful
- () skeleton. The flamingo's hips and leg bones are in a special shape and position that give the bird amazing
- () change to keep us straight and stop us from falling over. The position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do
- () hour. He said: "Most of us aren't aware that we're moving around all the time." He added that even
- () Another researcher, Lena Ting, said the flamingo is very unique because it can stand still for a long
- () time on one leg. He said it would be very difficult for a human to stay still without moving, even for an
- () not need to use so many muscles to keep still. This means they save
- () balance. Professor Chang said the flamingo's basic anatomy (bone structure) means it can stand
- () Young-Hui Chang says a flamingo can stand on just one leg for many hours because of its
- () energy. The researchers say that saving energy could also be the reason other birds stand and sleep on one leg.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

1. image the love all We water in standing birds beautiful these of .
2. hours one many can just for flamingo on leg A stand .
3. balance amazing shape that bird special position the A and give .
4. bone it The anatomy means stand basic structure can flamingo's .
5. use a do to muscles Flamingos have their lot not .
6. because stand a Unique can for time it still long .
7. would be human very to difficult stay for still a It .
8. us moving aren't around aware Most that of we're .
9. many birds need so The not use muscles do to .
10. could the say energy be Researchers saving also reason that .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Scientists *believe* / *belief* they have found how flamingos stand on one leg. We all love the image of *them* / *these* beautiful birds standing in water on just one leg. The reason why the birds *do* / *does* this has puzzled scientists for decades. Researchers in Atlanta, USA, say they have uncovered this *secret* / *secrecy* of the natural world. Professor Young-Hui Chang says a flamingo can *standing* / *stand* on just one leg for many *hours* / *hour* because *of* / *for* its skeleton. The flamingo's hips and leg bones are *on* / *in* a special shape and position that give the bird *amaze* / *amazing* balance. Professor Chang said the flamingo's basic anatomy (bone structure) means it can stand on one leg with ease. Flamingos do not have to use their muscles a lot to *do* / *doing* this.

Another researcher, Lena Ting, said the flamingo is very *uniquely* / *unique* because it can stand *stall* / *still* for a long time on one leg. He said it would be very *difficulty* / *difficult* for a human to stay still without moving, *even* / *event* for an hour. He said: "Most of us aren't aware *what* / *that* we're moving around all the time." He added that even when we stand still, we actually move and use *the* / *a* lot of energy. The muscles in our body constantly *change* / *changing* to keep us straight and stop us from falling over. The position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do *never* / *not* need to use so *much* / *many* muscles to keep still. This means they save energy. The researchers say that *saving* / *save* energy could also be the reason other birds stand and sleep on one leg.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Sc__nt__sts b_l__v__ th_y h_v__ f__nd h_w fl_m_ng_s
st_nd __n __n__ l_g. W__ __ll l_v__ th__ __m_g__ __f th_s__
b__ __t_f_l b_rds st_nd_ng __n w_t_r __n j_st __n__ l_g. Th__
r__s_n why th__ b_rds d__ th_s h_s p_zzl_d sc__nt__sts
f_r d_c_d_s. R_s__rch_rs __n __tl__nt__, __S__, s_y th_y
h_v__ __nc_v_r_d th_s s_cr_t __f th__ n__t_r_l w_rld.
Pr_f_ss_r Y__ng-H__ Ch_ng s_ys __ fl_m_ng__ c_n st_nd
__n j_st __n__ l_g f_r m_ny h__rs b_c__s__ __f __ts
sk_l_t_n. Th__ fl_m_ng_'s h_ps __nd l_g b_n_s __r __n __
sp_c__l sh_p__ __nd p_s_t__n th_t g_v__ th__ b_rd
__m_z_ng b_l_nc__. Pr_f_ss_r Ch_ng s__d th__ fl_m_ng_'s
b_s_c__n_t my (b_n__str__ct_r_) m__ns __t c_n st_nd __n
__n__ l_g w__th __s__. Fl_m_ng_s d__ n__t h_v__ t__ __s__
th__r m_scl_s __ l__t__d__ th_s.

__n th_r r_s__rch_r, L_n__T__ng, s__d th__ fl_m_ng__ __s
v_ry __n_q__ b_c__s__ __t c_n st_nd st_ll f_r __l__ng t_m__
__n __n__ l_g. H__s__d __t w__ld b__ v_ry d_ff_c__lt f_r __
h_m__n t__st_y st_ll w__th __t m_v__ng, __v__n f_r __n h__r.
H__s__d: "M__st __f __s __r n't w_r__ th_t w_'r m_v__ng
__r__nd __ll th__ t_m__." H__ __dd_d th__t __v__n wh__n w__
st_nd st_ll, w__ __ct__lly m_v__ __nd __s__ __l__t __f __n_rgy.
Th__ m_scl_s __n __r b_dy c_nst__ntly ch_ng__ t__ k__p __s
str__ght __nd st_p __s fr_m f__ll__ng __v__r. Th__ p_s_t__n
__f th__ b_n_s __n __ fl_m_ng__ m__ns th__ b_rds d__ n__t
n__d t__ __s__ s__ m_ny m_scl_s t__ k__p st_ll. Th_s m__ns
th_y s_v__ __n_rgy. Th__ r_s__rch_rs s_y th__t s_v__ng
__n_rgy c__ld __ls__ b__ th__ r__s_n __th__r b_rds st_nd __nd
sl__p __n __n__ l_g.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

scientists believe they have found how flamingos stand on one leg we all love the image of these beautiful birds standing in water on just one leg the reason why the birds do this has puzzled scientists for decades researchers in atlanta usa say they have uncovered this secret of the natural world professor young-hui chang says a flamingo can stand on just one leg for many hours because of its skeleton the flamingo's hips and leg bones are in a special shape and position that give the bird amazing balance professor chang said the flamingo's basic anatomy (bone structure) means it can stand on one leg with ease flamingos do not have to use their muscles a lot to do this

another researcher lena ting said the flamingo is very unique because it can stand still for a long time on one leg he said it would be very difficult for a human to stay still without moving even for an hour he said "most of us aren't aware that we're moving around all the time" he added that even when we stand still we actually move and use a lot of energy the muscles in our body constantly change to keep us straight and stop us from falling over the position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do not need to use so many muscles to keep still this means they save energy the researchers say that saving energy could also be the reason other birds stand and sleep on one leg

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos.html>

Scientists believe they have found how flamingos stand on one leg. We all love the image of these beautiful birds standing in water on just one leg. The reason why the birds do this has puzzled scientists for decades. Researchers in Atlanta, USA, say they have uncovered this secret of the natural world. Professor Young-Hui Chang says a flamingo can stand on just one leg for many hours because of its skeleton. The flamingo's hip and leg bone are in a special shape and position that give the bird amazing balance. Professor Chang said the flamingo's basic anatomy (bone structure) means it can stand on one leg with ease. Flamingos do not have to use their muscles a lot to do this. Another researcher, Lena Ting, said the flamingo is very unique because it can stand still for a long time on one leg. He said it would be every difficult for a human to stay still without moving, even for an hour. He said: "Most of us aren't aware that we're moving around all the time." He added that even when we stand still, we actually move and use a lot of energy. The muscles in our body constantly change to keep us straight and stop us from falling over. The position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do not need to use so many muscles to keep still. This means they save energy. The researchers say that saving energy could also be the reason other birds stand and sleep on one leg.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. FLAMINGOS: Make a poster about flamingos. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. NATURE'S SECRETS: Write a magazine article about unlocking all of nature's secrets. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on flamingos. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on which of nature's secrets we should unlock next. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b F c F d T e T f F g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. believe | a. think |
| 2. image | b. picture |
| 3. puzzled | c. mystified |
| 4. balance | d. stability |
| 5. basic | e. fundamental |
| 6. unique | f. special |
| 7. all the time | g. constantly |
| 8. actually | h. in fact |
| 9. still | i. motionless |
| 10. save | j. conserve |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Images of flamingos
2. Decades
3. Atlanta
4. Hip
5. Muscles
6. Unique
7. An hour
8. Energy
9. Change
10. Other birds

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

a F b F c F d T e T f F g T h T a F b F

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)