

GESTATION: 27-31 days * WEIGHT: ± 3 ounces * LENGTH: 2-3 inches

Just like Mom, Daddy Flamingo is fantastic at feeding! For the first six weeks of their baby's life, both parents make a nutritious liquid to feed their chick. This special *crop milk* has a beautiful reddish color.

The American flamingo

After 12 days, the chicks waddle to flamingo daycare. A few parents babysit, while the rest (sometimes as many as 20,000 flamingos!) fly off to find food and handle grown-up stuff.

While making the crop milk, Mom and Dad lose their pretty pink color. They get it back once the baby starts to find food on its own. **Whew!**

The chicks stay in the nest for 4 to 12 days, close to Dad and Mom.

Dad and Mom are skilled builders. For six weeks, they work on a nest that can reach up to 12 inches!

This way, their precious egg is protected from flooding and heat rising from the ground.

Dad and Mom take turns cuddling the egg to keep it warm.

Can you stand on one leg like a flamingo without losing your balance?

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Under your wings, the world feels soft and safe. Outside, the world seems big, but you're always near. Watching, caring, proud. With your help, I learn step by step, sometimes stumbling, but always caught by your loving gaze. One day, I'll spread my own wings. Not too soon, not too late. Just the right time for me.

GESTATION: 50-70 days * WEIGHT: less than .04 ounces * LENGTH: ± 1/6 inch

The Darwins frog



Dad, you teach me to find my own path
and always give me that extra nudge.
You make sure I know that what I say
matters and my presence is important.
You help me find my voice and show me
how to use its power when I need it most.

If this frog meets a predator,
he plays hide-and-seek!
He freezes and pretends to be
a dead leaf. Smart, right?

The tadpoles stay
in Dad's vocal sac
for 50 to 70 days,
safe from predators.

Dad doesn't eat at all while his
tadpoles are camping in his vocal sac.
So, he has to make sure he eats enough
before scooping them up!

What's your
loudest frog croak?

As long as the tadpoles stay in
Dad's vocal sac, they get nutrients
through his skin. They also eat
the leftover parts of their eggs,
which are still full of nutrients.

Rrrriiibbit!

A baby frog is also called a **tadpole**.

Mommy Frog lays up to 40 eggs
in leaf litter on the forest floor.
Dad fertilizes the eggs and
stays nearby. His job has
only just begun!

Daddy Frog stays close to his eggs for
three weeks. When the larvae start to
move inside their eggs, he carefully
scoops them into his vocal sac.
They stay there for a few more days
before hatching into tadpoles.

When the tadpoles grow big enough,
they move into their dad's mouth.
It looks like Dad is spitting out the frogs!
He usually does this near water.