

The Crimson Wing: Mystery of the Flamingo Study Notes



Directed by: Matthew Aeberhard and Leander Ward

Certificate: PG

Running time: 77 mins

Synopsis

One lake, a million birds, an incredible story. A nature documentary on the life cycle of flamingos, filmed in Lake Natron in Northern Tanzania.

Before seeing the film

Key questions

1. What does 'life cycle' mean? Describe the life cycle of a butterfly, starting from the caterpillar stage.
2. Recreate the life cycle of your butterfly in a storyboard. Which camera angles would be good to show each stage? High angle, low angle, close-up, long distance etc.? Label each storyboard shot with a camera angle.
3. The Crimson Wing: Mystery of the Flamingo is about the life cycle of the flamingo. Use the internet or a library to find out about the flamingo. Draw one in its natural habitat.
4. The film is set in Lake Natron, Northern Tanzania. Use an atlas or globe to locate Northern Tanzania. Try to estimate how far away from the UK it is. How long do you think it would take to get there by plane? Or by boat?
5. The Crimson Wing: Mystery of the Flamingo is a documentary. What is a documentary and why is it different to a film like Shrek the Third, for example?

After seeing the film

Task 1

Having seen the film, try to imagine what it was like for the camera crew to make the film. How do you think they got so close to the birds during the different stages of a flamingo's life?

Make a list of the equipment and tools that you would need if you were going to make a documentary about the wildlife in your local area. Imagine you are going to film some bird's eggs hatching in a nest up a tree. Plan a day's filming – from the break of day to dusk.

Task 2

List five things that you have learnt about flamingos having watched the film.