



A flock of flamingos in the Gulf of Mexico  
 Photograph by Robert B. Haas

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- 1 Work in pairs. Look at the photo. What is unusual about it? Do you think it is real or fake? Why?
- 2 Read the comments on the photo. What or who do the words in bold refer to?
  - 1 If you look closely you can make **them** out.
  - 2 **That's** too much of a coincidence.
  - 3 I've seen **this kind of thing** before.
  - 4 I think **it's** genuine.
  - 5 You can see where **he** has added more flamingos.
  - 6 Look at **the ones** at the top.
- 3 Work in groups. Have you ever been tricked by anything fake? How can you tell if these things are fake or genuine?

jewelry money paintings passports watches

## Weird news

### Warm-up

#### Personal response

Ask students to think of a photograph that they own or that they have taken that is special to them. Have them describe their photos in pairs or in small groups.

1 Ask students to look at the photo and discuss the questions in pairs.

2 Ask students to read the sentences. Clarify the meaning of any new words. In pairs, have students decide what or who the words in bold refer to.

### ANSWERS

- 1 the flamingos
- 2 the picture, the shape
- 3 pictures that may be fake
- 4 the photo
- 5 the photographer
- 6 the flamingos

3 Students discuss the questions in groups.

### Extra activity

In pairs, ask students to describe a strange news story they heard recently or that was very memorable. Ask for volunteers to share with the class. If students need help thinking of things, put some examples of events on the board that generated a lot of press. For example: the end of the Mayan calendar in 2012; the Malaysian Airlines Flight 370; a recent election.

### PHOTO INFO

The irony of the photo is that the flock of flamingos has landed in the shape of a flamingo. Flamingos are common in the Gulf of Mexico, among other areas, and get their pink color from eating shrimp.