



AXOLOTL

- Species Profile -



DESCRIPTION

The axolotl is a unique amphibian known for its wide head and lidless eyes. The limbs are underdeveloped and have long, thin digits. They are known to grow to around 9 inches long. Their features are typical of salamander larvae. Axolotls have either gray or a light pink skin. Along their head they have sets of external gills so they can breathe underwater.

HABITAT & RANGE

The axolotl is exclusive to Lake Xochimilco and Lake Chalco in central Mexico. Their habitat contains a high altitude body of water that is surrounded by terrestrial environment.

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

The axolotl is known to regenerate limbs that have been lost due to injury. This has caused them to be taken captive by scientists for lab experiments to investigate how they have this ability.

REPRODUCTION

Axolotls exhibit neoteny, which means they reach sexual maturity without undergoing any sort of metamorphosis. Females lay between 300 to 1,100 eggs at a time. After two weeks, the larvae have gills, legs and tails.

DIET

They are a carnivorous animal that enjoys consuming small prey like insects, small fish and worms. Axolotls find food by smell and suck food into their stomachs with a strong suction force.

PREDATORS, THREATS & CONSERVATION

The axolotl is considered an exotic pet and is often caught and traded. Sadly, as of 2013, biologists are concerned because there seem to be no Axolotls left in the wild. This is due to extreme water pollution, the urbanization of Mexico, pet trading and scientific experiments.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is one of the most important conservation organizations in the world. They research the population changes of the axolotl and thousands of other species to monitor how they are doing. You can learn more at <http://support.iucnredlist.org/>

WILD FACTS

Scientific Name	<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i>
Weight	2 – 8 oz
Length	6 – 18 in
Lifespan	10 – 15 years
Closest Relatives	Tiger Salamander & Mole Salamander

AXOLOTL

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DESCRIPTION

The axolotl is an amphibian. They have a wide head and no eyelids. They have thin fingers and toes. They grow to be around 9 inches long. Axolotls are gray or a light pink. They have gills on the sides of their heads. The gills help the axolotl to breathe underwater.

HABITAT & RANGE

The axolotl can only be found in Mexico. They live high up in the mountains. Their habitat includes two lakes.

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

The axolotls can grow new limbs if they have been hurt. Scientists want to study how axolotls do this.

REPRODUCTION

Female axolotls lay up to 1,000 eggs at a time. Axolotl larvae grow tails within two weeks of development.

DIET

These animals enjoy eating insects, small fish and worms. Axolotls find food by smell. They suck food into their stomachs.

PREDATORS, THREATS & CONSERVATION

Some people have axolotls as an unusual pet. They are often caught and traded. As of 2013, scientists are worried there are no more axolotl in the wild. They are gone because of water pollution, big cities, and pet trading.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an organization, which works to keep animals safe. They study axolotls and other creatures to see how they are doing. You can learn more at <http://support.iucnredlist.org/>

WILD FACTS

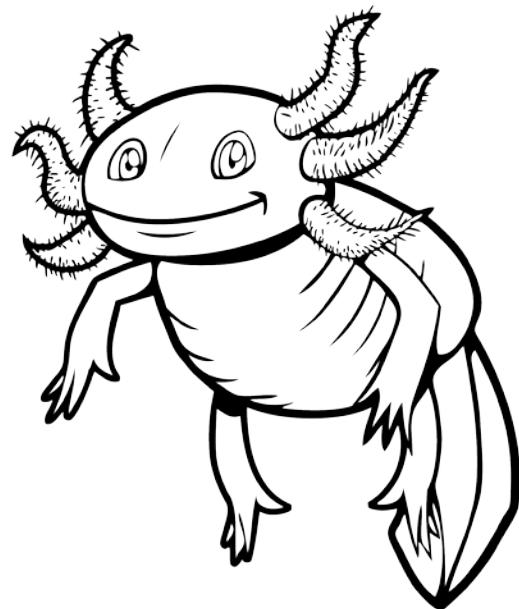
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Your Name _____



Axolotl

An axolotl is an amphibian. It is a carnivore, which means it eats meat. Axolotls live in North America. Did you know axolotls are studied because they can regrow their limbs?





REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in sentences.

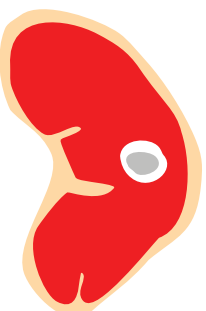


1. What is the most interesting thing about axolotls?

2. Describe an axolotl in your own words.



Axolotls
live in North
America.

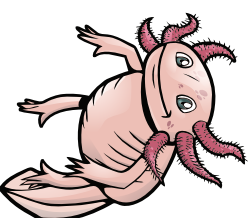


An axolotl
eats meat.

Axolotls are
amphibians.
Amphibians are
cold-blooded
animals that
have moist
smooth skin.

Axolotls are
critically
endangered which
means it is at a high
risk of extinction.

Draw an Axolotl!



Axolotl