Axolotl fact sheet

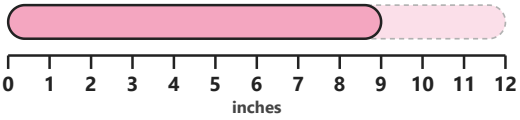
True facts about real axolotls



Fact card

Kind of animal	Amphibian. A salamander.
Scientific name	Ambystoma mexicanum
Length	About 20 cm (9 inches). Up to 30 cm (12 inches).
Weight	50 to 200 grams, says the Natural History Museum. About as much as a deck of cards.
Lives in	The canals of Lake Xochimilco in Mexico City, and nowhere else in the wild
Eats	Worms, snails, insect larvae, small shellfish and small fish
Babies	Hatch from eggs in about two weeks
Lifespan	10 to 15 years
Status	Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List

How big is an axolotl?



Most grown axolotls are about 9 inches long (the dark part of the bar). The biggest reach 12 inches, the length of a school ruler.

Why two numbers?

Where sources give different numbers, this sheet gives the range. That is how scientists do it too.

My notes

8 true axolotl facts

1. An axolotl is a salamander. Salamanders are amphibians, like frogs and newts.
2. Most salamanders change as they grow up and move onto land. The axolotl skips that. It keeps its baby looks and stays in the water for life.
3. The feathery frills on its head are its gills. They take oxygen out of the water.
4. Wild axolotls live in only one place on Earth: the canals of Lake Xochimilco, in the south of Mexico City.
5. An axolotl can regrow a lost leg in about a month.
6. It has no eyelids that move, so it cannot blink.
7. Wild axolotls are dark brown or black with spots. The pale pink ones with pink gills are mostly raised by people.
8. Babies hatch with no legs. The legs grow in a few weeks later.

Sources: National Geographic; National Geographic Kids; San Diego Zoo; Natural History Museum; Animal Diversity Web; WWF-Canada, and 4 more. Every source and link: lumiscove.com/animal-facts/axolotl

For personal and classroom use.

Axolotl quiz and report

Page 2. The answers are upside down at the bottom.

Name: _____

True or false?

Circle your answer. Try it before you look at the fact sheet.

1. An axolotl is a kind of fish. **True** **False**
2. An axolotl can regrow a lost leg. **True** **False**
3. Wild axolotls live in oceans all over the world. **True** **False**
4. An axolotl cannot blink. **True** **False**
5. Most wild axolotls are pink. **True** **False**
6. The feathery frills on its head are gills. **True** **False**

My axolotl report

An axolotl is a kind of

_____

Axolotls live in

_____

Axolotls eat

_____

My favorite fact

_____

_____

One thing I still wonder

_____

_____

Draw an axolotl

Answers: 1. False. It is a salamander, which is an amphibian. 2. True. It takes about a month. 3. False. They live only in the canals of Lake Xochimilco in Mexico City. 4. True. It has no eyelids that move. 5. False. Wild ones are dark brown or black with spots. 6. True. They take oxygen out of the water.

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