

A close-up photograph of a pink axolotl (Amphioxysoma) resting on a light-colored, sandy substrate. The axolotl has a pale pink body and prominent, feathery red external gills. Its head is on the left, and its body extends towards the right. The background is slightly blurred, showing a textured, brownish surface.

Axolotls

Too Much talk about them By Gemmy.

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Introduction

If you are reading this book it is probably out of curiosity because axolotls are not a very well known animal. Axolotls are also a critically endangered animal; there are between 50-1000 of them left in the wild. They live in a lake called Lake Xochimilco (augh chi mil ee co) it is in Mexico City, and is a very beautiful lake.



This is lake Xochimilco, the last habitat of the axolotls.

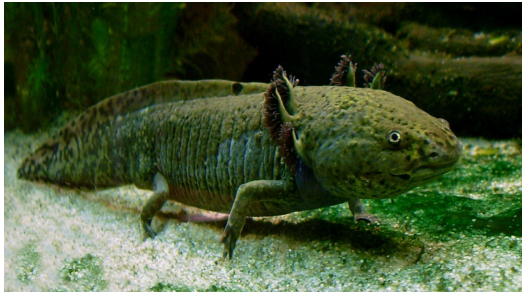
What are axolotls

Even though most people think that axolotls are fish, they are actually salamanders, even though most salamanders live on land, axolotls spend almost all of their lives in water. The reason they live in water is because axolotls never fully grow out of their larva states. To put this in perspective, frogs start out as tadpoles, but they become frogs, however they have a state with limbs and lungs but are still larva, like a teenager of a frog life cycle, but the idea is axolotls never leave that teenager like state.



Morphs

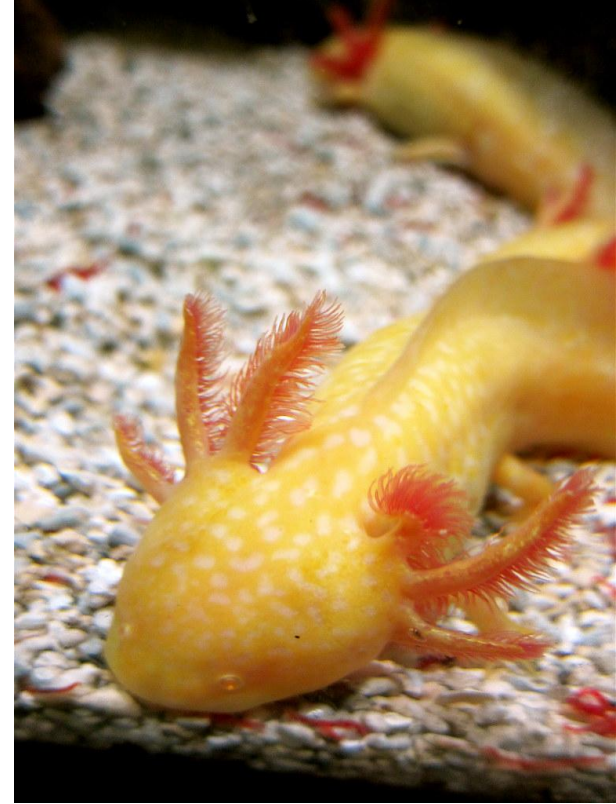
All the axolotls you have seen are albino, sort of the “clasic” morph, however there are many different morphes like the golden albino or the chimera or the gfp axolotl however all morphs started with the wild axolotl, the one that was not made from human breeding.*



Wild
axolotl
morph



Gfp axolotl



Golden albino

* we have an entire chapter about all the morphs

Related animals

Tiger Salamander

Tiger salamanders are actually so related to axolotls that they are able to breed, they do grow up, but much later than the average salamander.

Olm

is very alike to axolotls in appearance, and is capable to stay still for years at a time.



This is a tiger salamander.



This is an olm.



All The Morphs

In another page we discussed axolotl morphs, but this is a list of all axolotl morphs, that being human bred and wild. Albino and Lethalstic, the two best known morphs, then Golden albino chimera, a split morph, white on one half black the other copper, a copperish kind of color Enigma, a little like copper Menaloid a black axolotl morph firefly a instead of being split down the middle, the front half is black and the back half is white



All the morphs continued

lavender, exactly what it sounds like, lavender.

Mosaic, usually an albino morph, with black scattered across it.

Wild brown and green not man made, but instead natural morphs.

I could be missing some, but these are all I really know of.

Diet & body regrowth

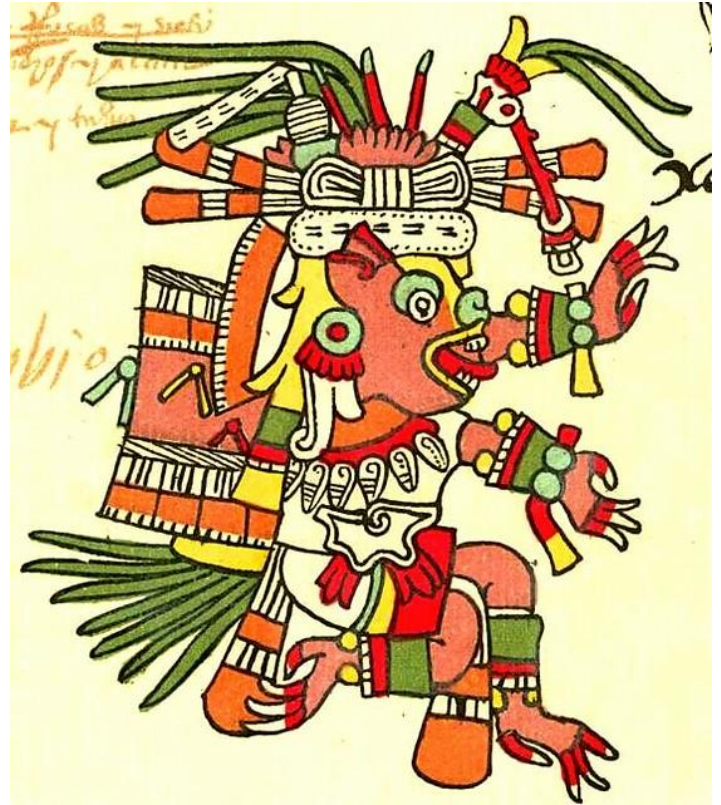
Axolotls will eat anything they can get into their mouths. Fish, shrimp, even other axolotls. They will not eat a human being (that would be scary) and are relatively friendly towards humans. All salamanders can regenerate their limbs, however axolotls take it to the next level, they can regenerate parts of their brain, eyeballs, tails, anything that they can survive without for the amount of time it takes to regenerate it. (regenerating takes 1-3 months.) however, sometimes they mess up their regeneration and might say, get another leg or gill.

Harm towards axolotls

Despite being top predators in lake Xochimilico, axolotls have been harmed due to pollution and they used to have a larger habitat. People have put fish that will EAT axolotl eggs, and small axolotls. Axolotls are again critically endangered due to these reasons there are 700-1200 axolotls left in the wild. However people are working on removing the endangering fish in Lake Xochimilco. Axolotls are (if you really like them, you'll be better off not hearing this, learning it is horrible) Axolotls are actually eaten in some places. Whoever has done this should be killed, because again axolotls are critically endangered in the wild. The one good fact is that this is actually only done with axolotls kept in captivity, where there are over a million. (In captivity means kept as pets.)

Axolotls in religion

Axolotls are important in Mexican religion, there was an evil god called (i swear I'm not making this up) Xolotl, and he had, to one day, to avoid death, turned himself into an axolotl. (by the way I think that this idea was made in the 13th century because axolotls were discovered then along with Mexico City) however he was eventually captured and killed.



This is a drawing of Xolotl (not by me)

A summary

Axolotls are honestly a very great animal, & if you have read this book hopefully you will agree. They are very endangered so it is important to the future of this salamander that many people know of this. It is again as stated, a very uncommon animal, and would be very unfortunate if it was to go extinct. So one thing to keep in mind, people are working on a fast way of healing, using axolotls ability.