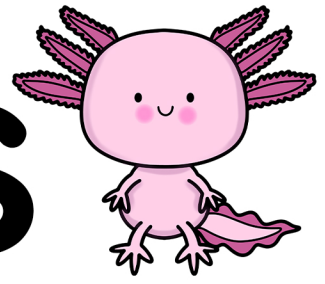


FUN FACTS ABOUT AXOLOTLS



ONE WILD HOME

In the wild, axolotls live in only one place on Earth: a system of lakes and canals near Mexico City, including Lake Xochimilco.



SUPER HEALERS

Axolotls can regrow an entire leg, a piece of their tail, or even part of their heart or brain, and they do it without forming a scar.

BIG GENOME

An axolotl's DNA is many times larger than a human's, which is one reason scientists study them so closely.

UNDERWATER DINERS



Axolotls eat worms, insects, small fish, and mollusks, swallowing their food whole since they don't have teeth for chewing.

A PATIENT COUSIN

The axolotl's closest relative, the tiger salamander, loses its gills and moves onto land as an adult, but the axolotl stays in the water forever.



ALWAYS SMILING

Axolotls appear to have a permanent smile because of the natural shape of their wide mouths.

COLORFUL COUSINS

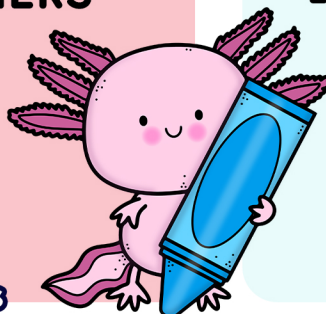
Axolotls can be dark brown and speckled, pale pink, pure white, or even black, depending on their coloring.

FOREVER YOUNG

Axolotls never fully grow up. They keep their baby-like gills and fins their whole lives instead of losing them like most amphibians do.

FEATHERY BREATHERS

The frilly pink or dark gills on the sides of an axolotl's head let it breathe underwater for its entire life.



IN DANGER IN THE WILD

Wild axolotls are considered critically endangered because of habitat loss, water pollution, and animals that were introduced into their lake home.