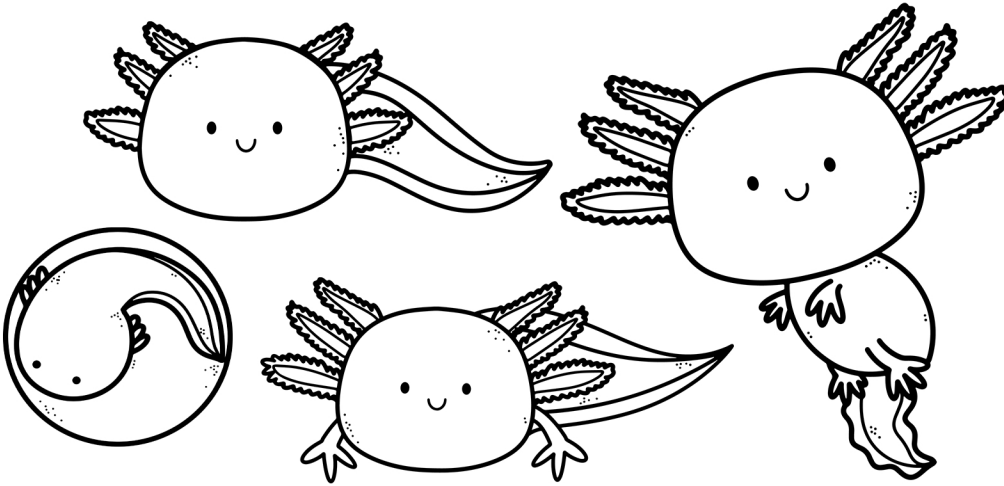


**Word Bank:**

salamander

metamorphosis

axolotl

neoteny

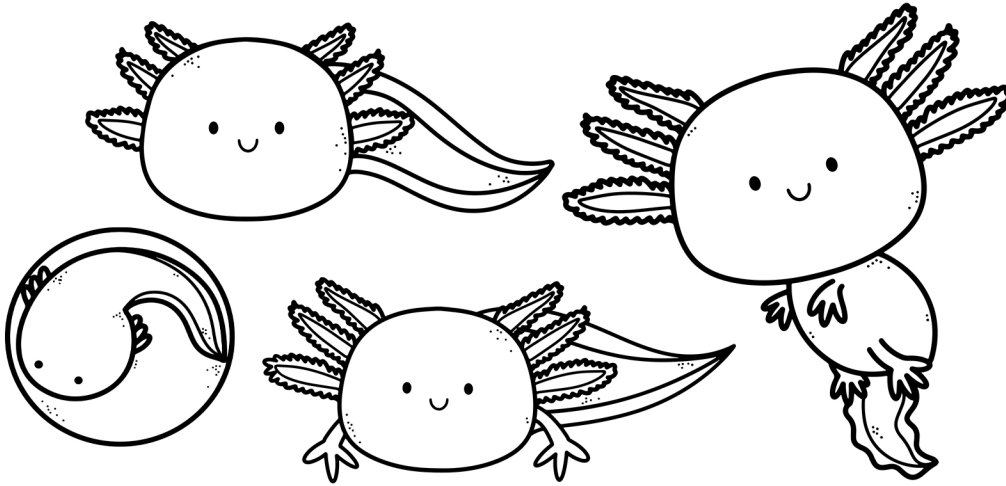
Most salamanders start their lives in the water and then move onto land when they become adults. This change is called metamorphosis. The axolotl is different. An axolotl keeps its feathery gills and stays in the water for its entire life, even as an adult. Scientists call this neoteny. Neoteny means an animal keeps its young, baby-like features even after it grows up. The axolotl's closest relative, the tiger salamander, does go through metamorphosis. It loses its gills and walks onto land, but the axolotl never does. It stays a water-loving amphibian forever, gills and all.

1. What is metamorphosis?

2. What does neoteny mean?

3. Name one difference between an axolotl and a tiger salamander.



**Word Bank:**

salamander

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Most salamanders start their lives in the water and then move onto land when they become adults. This change is called metamorphosis. The axolotl is different. An axolotl keeps its feathery gills and stays in the water for its entire life, even as an adult. Scientists call this neoteny. Neoteny means an animal keeps its young, baby-like features even after it grows up. The axolotl's closest relative, the tiger salamander, does go through metamorphosis. It loses its gills and walks onto land, but the axolotl never does. It stays a water-loving amphibian forever, gills and all.

1. What is metamorphosis?

Metamorphosis is the process where a young animal's body changes shape as it grows into an adult.

2. What does neoteny mean?

Neoteny means an animal keeps its young, baby-like features even after it becomes an adult.

3. Name one difference between an axolotl and a tiger salamander.

A tiger salamander loses its gills and moves onto land as an adult, but an axolotl keeps its gills and stays in the water.

