

AXOLOTLS

LESSON PLAN

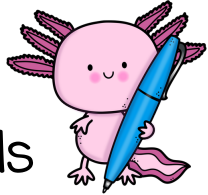
Week at a Glance:

Day One: Intro to
Axolotls: Physical Traits
Day Two: Axolotl Habitats
Day Three: What do
Axolotls Eat?
Day Four: Axolotl Families
Day Five: Axolotl
Adaptations



AXOLOTL

LESSON PLAN



Day One: Intro to Axolotls

Objective: The students will be able to identify characteristics and physical traits of axolotls.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY ONE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: This week, we are going to be learning all about axolotls! What do you already know about axolotls? What do you want to learn? Axolotls are unusual amphibians that live in freshwater. One unique trait about axolotls is they are famous for being able to regrow body parts like their legs, tail and even some of their organs. Axolotls have feathery gills that stick out the side of their heads that allow them to breathe underwater.

AXOLOTL

Lesson (20 minutes):

- *The teacher will read the book, "The Nature Kid's Guide to Axolotls: A Level 2 Reader for Curious Young Kids Who Love Axolotls!"

Questions to ask after reading - What kinds of animals are axolotls? What do they look like? Where do they live? What are the feathery looking things on the side of their head?

- *Guide the students in completing the "Axolotls can, have, are" graphic organizer attached below.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will complete the "Fact or Fiction?" worksheet attached below. They will color in facts about axolotls in green and untrue statements in red.

Closing (5 minutes)

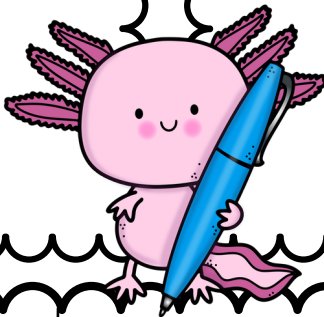
- *With small groups or as a class, review together the "Fact or Fiction?" worksheet attached.

AXOLOTL

a x o l o t l s

can

are



have

AXOLOTL

FACT OR FICTION?

Directions: Color the facts in green. Color statements that are fiction in red.

They
are
amphibians.

Axolotls
breathe
underwater
with gills.

Axolotls
are
mammals.

Axolotls
spend most
of their time
on land living
in trees.

One of
their most
amazing qualities
is that they
can regrow
body parts!

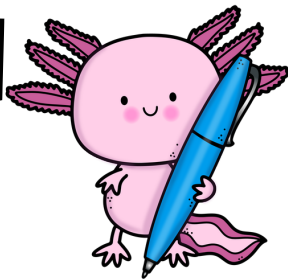
Axolotls
spend most
of their time
in the
water.

Axolotls
must come
up to the
surface to
breathe.

Axolotls
are
fish.

AXOLOTL

LESSON PLAN



Day Two: Axolotl Habitats

Objective: The students will be able to identify where axolotls live and what they need in their habitats to survive.

LESSON PLAN: DAY TWO

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we are going to learn more about where axolotls live. Axolotls are freshwater amphibians that are typically found in Mexico. They typically live in cool waters like lakes and canals. They like having aquatic plants, rocks and other underwater structures to give them places to rest and hide. Axolotls also like slow-moving water rather than fast-moving. Clean water is also important for them to thrive because they absorb oxygen and water through their skin and gills.

AXOLOTL

Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The students will watch the video, "A Lot About Axolotls" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOPHHLgpdNs>

- *The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Axolotl Habitats" graphic organizer. In the circles in the graphic organizer, record four facts about axolotl habitats.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will independently complete the "Vocabulary Square" graphic organizer. The students will define the word freshwater, write a sentence using the word and draw a picture.

Closing (5 minutes)

- *Review together the "Vocabulary Square" activity. Students may share their sentences.

AXOLOTL

AXOLOTL HABITATS

Directions: In the circles below, write down characteristics of habitats that axolotls might live in.



AXOLOTL

VOCABULARY SQUARE

Word:

freshwater

Definition:

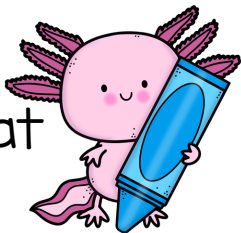
Sentence:

Picture:



AXOLOTL

LESSON PLAN



Day Three: What Axolotls Eat

Objective: The students will be able to identify what axolotls eat and how they get their food.

LESSON PLAN: DAY THREE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we are diving deeper in to what axolotls eat and how they get their food. Axolotls are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They typically eat worms, small crustaceans, small fish, insect larvae, and other small aquatic animals. They are not typically fast hunters, they usually wait for food to come to them. When an axolotl spots something to eat, they open their mouths and quickly suck in water and the prey, called suction feeding. They don't even chew their food, they swallow it whole!

AXOLOTL

Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The teacher will read the book, "Axolotl Facts for Kids: Explore the Fascinating World of Axolotls and Learn Everything You Need to Know about Them (Discovering the World of Axolotls)"

- *Questions to ask after reading the book
 - What do axolotls eat? How do they catch their food? What is suction feeding? Do axolotls eat plants? Why or why not? What is a carnivore?

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will complete the "Axolotl Unscramble" attached below. Each word is associated with what a axolotl eats.

Closing (5 minutes)

- *The teacher will give each student a sticky note or index card. They will write three things that axolotls eat!

AXOLOTL

AXOLOTL UNSCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble each word associated with a axolotl's diet.

W M R O S

F S H I

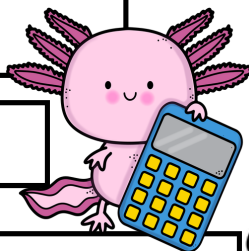
C S R U T C E A A N

C Y R A F S I H

L V A R E A

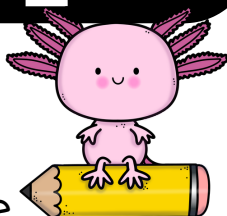
S P H R M I

E G S G



AXOLOTL

LESSON PLAN



Day Four: Axolotl Families

Objective: The students will be able to describe how axolotl families live and interact.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY FOUR

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we will be exploring more about axolotl families. Axolotls are amphibians, which means they lay eggs. A female can lay hundreds of eggs. After the eggs hatch, young axolotls develop their legs and remain in the water. Adults do not raise or care for their young. Axolotls typically are solitary animals after they are born, which means that they usually primarily live alone, and not in social groups.

AXOLOTL

Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The teacher will read the book, "The Axolotl Fact Book For Kids & Teens (With Pictures & Illustrations): 200+ Fun & Fascinating Facts About The Axolotl Salamander"

- *The students will complete the Vocabulary Match Up activity sheet defining the words hatch, egg, solitary and larvae.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will use the template attached below to write a 4-5 sentence paragraph about the axolotl life cycle and what it means to be solitary.

Closing (5 minutes)

- *In partners, the students will share their paragraphs with each other.

AXOLOTL

VOCABULARY MATCH UP



egg

an animal
that lives
alone



larvae

a tiny structure
where a baby
axolotl develops



solitary

when a baby
comes out of
its egg

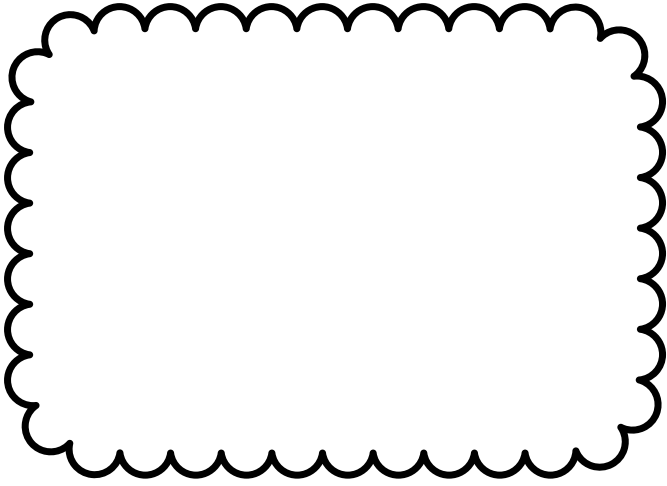


hatch

a young
axolotl that is
still developing

AXOLOTL

Axolotl Life Cycle



AXOLOTL

LESSON PLAN

Day Five: Axolotl Adaptations



Objective: The students will be able to describe adaptations of axolotls and how they help them to survive.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY FIVE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we are going to be learning more about adaptations of axolotls. What is an adaptation? An adaptation is a special feature or behavior that helps an animal survive. Axolotls have feathery gills that help them take in oxygen from the water, a wide mouth used for suction feeding, a strong sense of smell, small eyes, a long tail, the ability to hide and most famous of all - their ability to regenerate certain body parts, like parts of their limbs and tail.

AXOLOTL

Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The students will watch the video, "10 Amazing Axolotl Facts" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sN0bfeH9Ak>

- *The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Axolotl Adaptations" graphic organizer attached below. In each square, the students will describe an adaptation that helps axolotl to survive in their ecosystem.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will complete the "Axolotl Quick Check" attached below to assess understanding from the lesson.

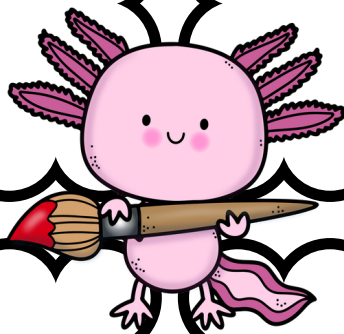
Closing (5 minutes)

- *The students will discuss with the class what their favorite part of the unit was!

AXOLOTL

ADAPTATIONS

Directions: Write an adaptation of a axolotl that helps it to survive in its aquatic habitat.



AXOLOTL

AXOLOTL QUICK CHECK

1. Why do axolotls have feathery gills?

2. What are other axolotl adaptations?

3. What is regeneration and why is it helpful?
