

English

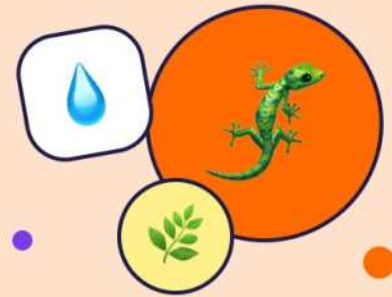
Grade 3

Axolotl reading comprehension: the smiling salamander

Read a true text about axolotls and find the main idea and key details.



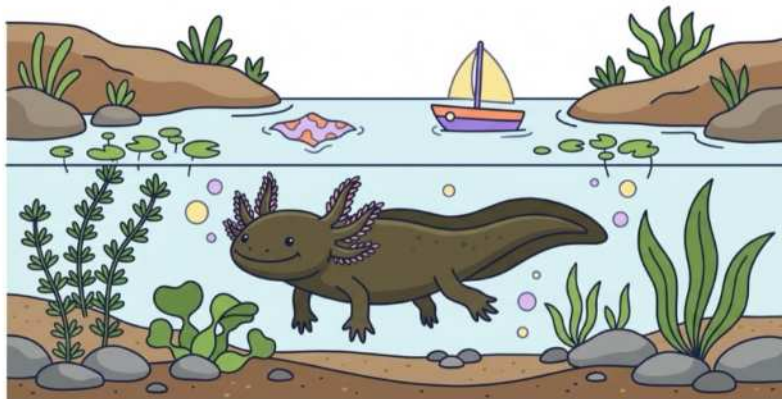
I can find the main idea and key details in a nonfiction text.



1



Meet the axolotl



An axolotl (say AX-uh-lot-ul) is a kind of salamander. It looks like it is always smiling. Wild axolotls live in just one place in the world: the canals and lakes near Mexico City.

Most salamanders leave the water when they grow up. Axolotls do not. They stay in the water their whole lives. They breathe with feathery gills on the sides of their heads.

Axolotls have an amazing power. If one loses a leg or a tail, it can grow a new one! Scientists study axolotls to learn how their bodies do this.

Sadly, wild axolotls are endangered. Their canals have become dirty, and there are fewer places for them to live. Today, people in Mexico are working to clean the canals and protect these special animals.

2



Check your reading

Circle the right answer.

1. What is the main idea of the text?

A Axolotls are special salamanders that need our help.

B Mexico City is a big city.

C All salamanders live on land.

2. Where do wild axolotls live?

A In the ocean

B Near Mexico City

C In deserts

3. How do axolotls breathe?

A With feathery gills

B Only with their noses

C Through their tails

3



Word meanings

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

☐

salamander



A. A long, narrow waterway made by people.

☐

gills



B. To keep safe from harm.

☐

endangered



C. A small animal with smooth skin that lives near water.

☐

canal



D. At risk of disappearing forever.

☐

protect



E. Body parts that let an animal breathe in water.

4



True or false

Circle the right answer.

1. An axolotl can grow back a lost leg.

True

False

2. Axolotls leave the water when they grow up.

True

False

3. Wild axolotls are endangered.

True

False

4. People are cleaning the canals to help axolotls.

True

False

5 Noun or verb?

Write each word in the right column.

axolotl

swim

gills

breathe

canal

grow

tail

protect

Noun

Verb

6 Fill in the words

Use the words: salamander, water, new, study, clean.

1. An axolotl is a kind of _____.
2. Axolotls stay in the _____ their whole lives.
3. If an axolotl loses a leg, it can grow a _____ one.
4. Scientists _____ axolotls to learn how their bodies do this.
5. People in Mexico are working to _____ the canals.

7 Order the ideas

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes to show the order of the ideas in the text.

☐

Axolotls can grow back a lost leg or tail.

☐

An axolotl is a salamander that lives near Mexico City.

☐

Wild axolotls are endangered, and people are helping them.



Axolotls stay in the water and breathe with gills.

8



Word work

Circle the right answer.

1. Which word means the opposite of "dirty"?

A muddy

B clean

C wet

2. What is the plural of "axolotl"?

A axolotl's

B axolotles

C axolotls

3. "It looks like it is always smiling." Who is "it"?

A the axolotl

B Mexico City

C the canal

4. Which sentence is a fact?

A Axolotls are the cutest animals.

B Axolotls breathe with gills.

C Everyone should own an axolotl.

9



Think about it

Why is it important to clean the canals near Mexico City? Use one detail from the text.

How did it go?



Made with GradeAid

English

Grade 3

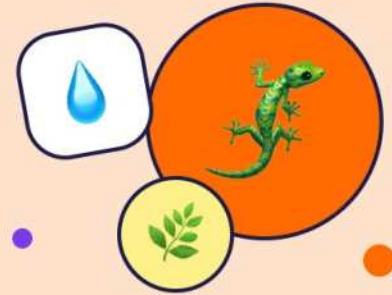
Answer key

Axolotl reading comprehension: the smiling salamander

Read a true text about axolotls and find the main idea and key details.



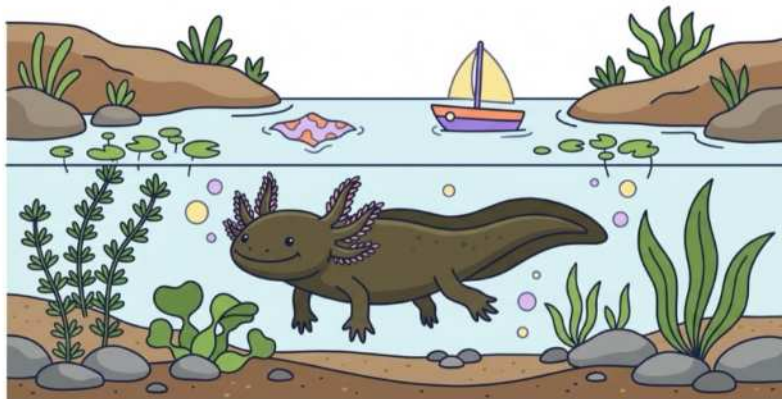
I can find the main idea and key details in a nonfiction text.



1



Meet the axolotl



An axolotl (say AX-uh-lot-ul) is a kind of salamander. It looks like it is always smiling. Wild axolotls live in just one place in the world: the canals and lakes near Mexico City.

Most salamanders leave the water when they grow up. Axolotls do not. They stay in the water their whole lives. They breathe with feathery gills on the sides of their heads.

Axolotls have an amazing power. If one loses a leg or a tail, it can grow a new one! Scientists study axolotls to learn how their bodies do this.

Sadly, wild axolotls are endangered. Their canals have become dirty, and there are fewer places for them to live. Today, people in Mexico are working to clean the canals and protect these special animals.

2



Check your reading

Circle the right answer.

1. What is the main idea of the text?

A Axolotls are special salamanders that need our help.

B Mexico City is a big city.

C All salamanders live on land.

2. Where do wild axolotls live?

A In the ocean

B Near Mexico City

C In deserts

3. How do axolotls breathe?

A With feathery gills

B Only with their noses

C Through their tails

3



Word meanings

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

C salamander



E gills



D endangered



A canal



B protect



A. A long, narrow waterway made by people.

B. To keep safe from harm.

C. A small animal with smooth skin that lives near water.

D. At risk of disappearing forever.

E. Body parts that let an animal breathe in water.

4



True or false

Circle the right answer.

1. An axolotl can grow back a lost leg.

True

False

2. Axolotls leave the water when they grow up.

True

False

3. Wild axolotls are endangered.

True

False

4. People are cleaning the canals to help axolotls.

True

False

5 Noun or verb?

Write each word in the right column.

axolotl

swim

gills

breathe

canal

grow

tail

protect

Noun

axolotl, gills, canal, tail

Verb

swim, breathe, grow, protect

6 Fill in the words

Use the words: salamander, water, new, study, clean.

1. An axolotl is a kind of salamander.

2. Axolotls stay in the water their whole lives.

3. If an axolotl loses a leg, it can grow a new one.

4. Scientists study axolotls to learn how their bodies do this.

5. People in Mexico are working to clean the canals.

7 Order the ideas

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes to show the order of the ideas in the text.

3 Axolotls can grow back a lost leg or tail.

1 An axolotl is a salamander that lives near Mexico City.

4 Wild axolotls are endangered, and people are helping them.

2

Axolotls stay in the water and breathe with gills.

8



Word work

Circle the right answer.

1. Which word means the opposite of "dirty"?

A muddy

B clean

C wet

2. What is the plural of "axolotl"?

A axolotl's

B axolotles

C axolotls

3. "It looks like it is always smiling." Who is "it"?

A the axolotl

B Mexico City

C the canal

4. Which sentence is a fact?

A Axolotls are the cutest animals.

B Axolotls breathe with gills.

C Everyone should own an axolotl.

9



Think about it

Why is it important to clean the canals near Mexico City? Use one detail from the text.

Wild axolotls live only in those canals and lakes. The water has become dirty and they are endangered, so clean canals give them a safe place to live.

How did it go?



Made with GradeAid