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Axolotl

The Axolotl, or Genus: *Ambystoma* Species: *Mexicanum* is found in lakes and water channels in Mexico City. Because they have gills, they always live in fresh water. In terms of color, they range from white to black with greys, tans, and browns as well. An adult axolotl can range from 150-450mm in length, but those measuring 300mm or more are rare. They usually weigh from 2-8 ounces. One distinguishing feature of the axolotl is the gills on its head. It is like this because it is always in its larval form, or neotenic. They aren't always neotenic, though. In very rare cases, axolotls will go through a metamorphosis that changes them into something very much like a tiger salamander. This may sound cool, but it is harmful to the axolotl. If they survive, they are in extreme pain and their lifespan is reduced from 10-15 years to 1-2.

While axolotls are omnivores, they mostly eat aquatic insects. They will eat some aquatic plants as well. The axolotl was the main predator in its habitat until large fish and birds were introduced.

These amphibians are endangered mainly because of habitat destruction. Although they were once a delicacy, the main reason for axolotl endangerment is the expansion of Mexico City. The expansion causes more contamination and drainage as well. The axolotls have a very small natural habitat, and the larger Mexico City gets; the more of it gets destroyed.

Sources:

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