

DECORATION/DISPLAY | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST
PASSIVE | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

AXOLOTL AND OTHER WEIRDOS

AGES

Children 6+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Passive games about weird animals! Children can either hunt for axolotl or answer T/F facts about weird animals to decode a secret word. For the axolotl-only version, hide four axolotl pictures throughout the library, one fact associated with each picture. After children fill in their answer keys with all four facts, they bring their finished sheets to a librarian for a small prize.

For a more challenging, multiple-animal version, children decide whether a series of animal facts are true or false; the right answers decode a special word. Once they complete the word, they get a small prize.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For either version, gather small prizes such as stickers, special bookmarks, buttons, small animal figurines, etc.

For Find Axolotl

From the Find Axolotl PowerPoint (see online manual or USB), print the four axolotl fact pages on separate sheets of paper; laminate them for durability before hanging them around the children's section. Hang the Find Axolotl poster next to a stack of printed answer sheets.

For Weird Animal Facts

On legal-size paper (8.5 x 14"), print the first 13 pages from the True or False PowerPoint file, modified as desired (see online manual or USB). Laminate the pages for durability. Punch holes and add a ring make a booklet out of these 13 pages (one directions page, six animal fact pages, and six decoder pages). If you have wall space, you could also hang the pages in a row. Print a stack of page 14 for children to take, and keep page 15 for your reference.

TIP:

Make yourself a key to remember where you hid the axolotls!

NOTE:

All weird animal facts in the PowerPoint were taken from *Weird Animals* (2019) by Mary Kay Carson or *Weird Sea Creatures* (2013) by Erich Hoyt.

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UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

You will need a place to keep prizes behind the desk and wall space in the children or teen sections.

RESOURCES

Web

Axolotl facts: <https://factanimal.com/axolotl/>

Axolotl and Other Weird Animal Books

Picture Books

The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea (2015) by Brenda Z. Guiberson and Gennady Spirin (NF)

Early Readers

Cute as an Axolotl (2018) by Jess Keating and David DeGrand (NF)

Dewdrop (2020) by Katie O'Neill (GN)

Freak Out! Animals Beyond Your Wildest Imagination (2009) by Ginger Clarke (NF)

My Encyclopedia of Very Important Animals (2017) from DK (NF)

Weird Sea Creatures (2012) by Laura Marsh (NF)

Middle Grade

A Curious Collection of Peculiar Creatures (2020) by Sami Bayly (NF)

Weird but True Animals (2018) by National Geographic Kids (NF)

Weird Sea Creatures (2013) by Erich Hoyt (NF)

TIP:

For more books about amazing animals, see Chapter 06: Break It, Remake It

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Find Axolotl PowerPoint

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True or False Weird Animals PowerPoint