

# **Not a Monster**

**Written By: Claudia Guadalupe Martinez**  
**Illustrated By: Laura Gonzalez**

**Synopsis:** Not a Monster explores the traits of the axolotl, the Aztec origin myth about the species, and the way pollution is affecting its natural habitat- the canals of Xochimilco in Mexico City; includes Spanish vocabulary.

**Suggested Reading Date:** October 7th (World Habitat Day); February 1st (National Axolotl Day)

## **Activity Descriptions:**

- Research axolotls using a database like World Book Encyclopedia or PebbleGo.
- Discuss how you would feel if your habitat was being threatened.
- Label an axolotl.
- Make a diorama of an axolotl habitat.
- Create a life cycle of an axolotl.
- Match the Spanish words throughout the book (especially color words) to the English words.

## **Related Websites:**

- Author's website - Claudia Guadalupe Martinez: <https://claudiaguadalupe.com/>
- Illustrator's website - Laura Gonzalez: <http://laugonzalez.com/index.html>
- San Diego Zoo: <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/axolotl>
- Natural History Museum: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/axolotls-amphibians-that-never-grow-up.html>
- Axolotl's in Peril - Scholastic ScienceWorld: <https://scienceworld.scholastic.com/pages/promotion/082922/axolotls-in-peril.html?language=english#1100L>
- Not a Monster Activity Packet from Charlesbridge: <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0750/0101/files/not-a-monster-activity-kit.pdf?v=1676306268>

## **Text to Text Connections:**

- *So You Want to be a Frog* by Jane Porter
- *Nobody Likes Frogs: A Book of Toadally Fun Facts* by Barbara Davis-Pyles
- *You Don't Want to be a Frog* by Dev Petty

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