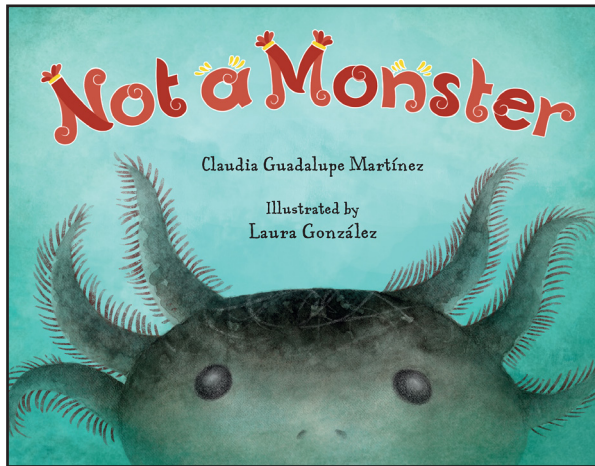


Not a Monster

ACTIVITY KIT

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Claudia Guadalupe Martínez
Illustrated by Laura González
978-1-62354-303-7 HC
e-book available

About the Book

With Spanish vocabulary and a clever color concept, this poetic picture book shares the life cycle of a beloved amphibian—the axolotl—in its natural habitat. This curious creature is actually a salamander that will never lose its gills or fins. *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.

About the Author

Claudia Guadalupe Martínez learned that letters form words from reading subtitles of old westerns with her father. She is the author of companion book *Not a Bean*; an award-winning debut novel, *The Smell of Old Lady Perfume*; and *Pig Park*.

About the Illustrator

Laura González has a degree in graphic design from Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Mexico, where she also studied illustration. She is a member of the Mexican Association of Illustrators (AMDI) and has illustrated several books for children, including companion book *Not a Bean*. www.laugonzalez.com



Not a Monster

Activity Kit

Before Reading

Pre-reading concept reviews help enrich students' learning experience!

For younger students (K-2nd):

- After looking at the cover of the book and reading the title, ask students what they think *Not a Monster* is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Explain what an axolotl is. Discuss how it is like and unlike other familiar creatures, like salamanders, frogs, lizards, and fish.
- Write the color vocabulary listed in the back of the book on a whiteboard with each word listed in its corresponding color. Distribute colored cards and invite students to wave the appropriately colored card in the air whenever the corresponding word appears in the book. (For example: When you read "It escapes the hungry carpa amarilla that eats everything in sight," students will wave their yellow cards.)

For older students (3rd-5th):

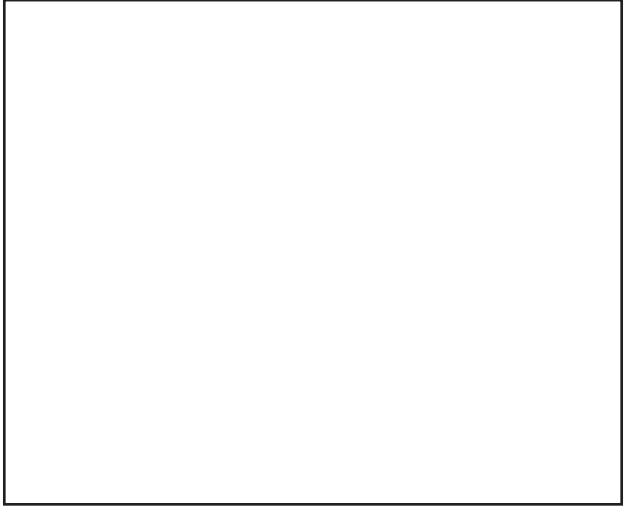
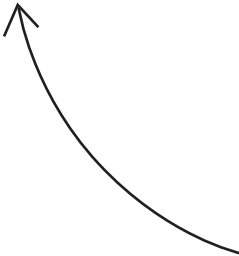
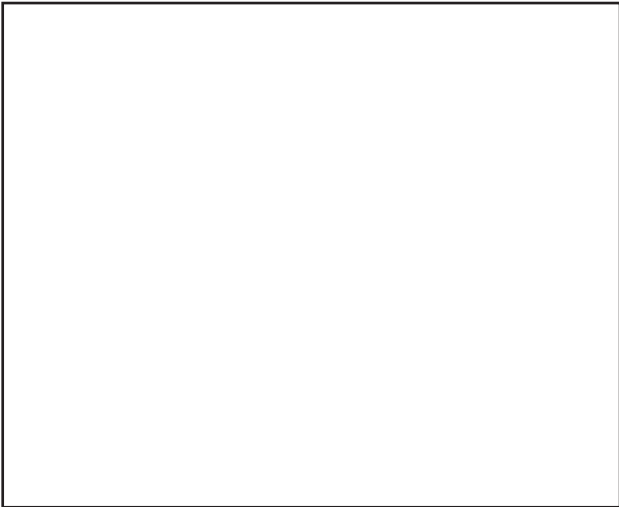
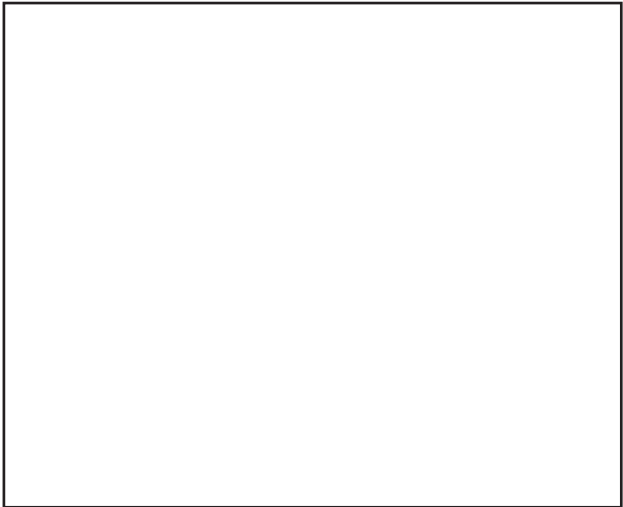
- Based on the title and cover, ask students to describe what they think the book is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Have students discuss the following questions in small groups. Tape questions to a wall and ask students to tape their answers beneath the questions.
 - What is a life cycle?
 - What is an axolotl?
 - Where do axolotls live?
- Write a list of the color vocabulary presented in the book on a whiteboard (this list can be found at the back of the book). Discuss as a class. Do students know these words? If they don't know which word corresponds to which color, how would they figure out the meaning of the word from context clues while reading the book?

Science: Axolotl Life Cycle

Name: _____

Date: _____

In the spaces below, draw the stages of the axolotl life cycle. Label each stage.



Not a Monster

Activity Kit

Language: Match the Words

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cut out the Spanish word cards below and match them to their English meanings. Tape them in place when you're confident of your answer.

Lake	Sun	Friends
Moon	Gills	Grandparents
Canals	Legs	City
Branquias	Patas	Canales
Amigos	Luna	Sol
Lago	Ciudad	Abuelos

Not a Monster

Activity Kit

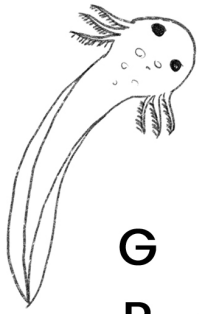
Language: Fill in the Blanks

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fill in the missing English word in the following sentences from *Not a Monster*.

1. In the murky waters of a _____, at the edge of a ciudad that was once a great empire, sits an egg.
2. It is an axolotl—a salamander that will never lose its _____ and fins like other salamanders.
3. There is a burst of life as the _____ begin to hatch.
4. It feasts on _____ and small fish that it finds among the water lilies.
5. The abuelos say one day the Aztec god of monstrous things jumped into the _____ and became an axolotl.



Not a Monster

Word Search



G S A K E W O J O S H A M H O
 P C H I N A M P A B O V X U C
 C N H L D J S H V X E L C E O
 D C B A Z B A J O L O T E V L
 A D C G L Y O F I I K L S O O
 P T R O T U V C A R P A B S R
 A U S L K J P H Q I E B C B E
 T C A S C A R A V O T U R Q S
 A W L A M I G O S S K E A N C
 S Q V S I O V M X U Z L B C A
 Z R M L K J I H A F I O U Y A
 D C A N A L E S G U T S R N P
 Y B X Y E J Z H U J H L S N A
 S Q R S O U A I A C I U D A D
 O A T B R A N Q U I A S C Z B

CANALES
 BRANQUIAS
 LUNA
 PATAS
 RAYO
 CARPA
 LIRIOS

CHINAMPA
 ABUELOS
 AGUA
 AMIGOS
 CÁSCARA
 CHALUPA
 CIUDAD

COLORES
 HUEVOS
 AJOLOTE
 LAGO
 OJOS
 SOL

Not a Monster

Activity Kit

Color the Axolotls

Name: _____

Date: _____

