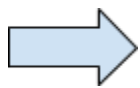


The 'X' Letter Zoo!

Letter 'X' 'critters' are rare and few. So we made up a **Letter 'X' Zoo** for you. You'll be excited to read and find so many 'X' animals, species and kinds.

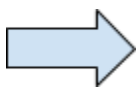
**Note: Sounding the 'strange' Letter X. Makes a 'Z' sound at beginning of some words: Xerus, Xenopus, Xenops, exception X-Ray Fish ('ks'= X sound). Makes a 'ks' in middle or end of word: exit, fox, ox).*

In the article below, find 28 Letter X.x. Find and circle the names of 6 Letter X animals.



To the Mammals Exhibit

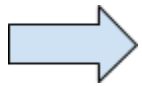
The Xerus Squirrel! Also, called the African Ground Squirrel. See these rodent mammals standing up like prairie dogs and looking all around? They have long tails and coarse bristly hair. They like their habitat of grasses, bushes and rocky areas, and dirt that they can burrow in. Here comes the Zookeeper to give them their favorite foods: roots, seeds, fruit, grains, and insects. The Xerus Squirrels like to be together.



To the Amphibian Exhibit

The Xenopus Frog! Also, called the African Clawed Frog. They look 'squashed' with a flat oval-shaped body. Their greenish-gray color is good for camouflage from birds and snakes. See their eyes on the top of their head? They can't move their eyeballs and are tongueless and toothless. Their hind toes are webbed and clawed and front toes are 'claws' for

catching spiders and bugs. The zoo has made sure that the **Xenopus** frogs have a nice warm pond habitat. They like to 'bottom feed', especially on worms. Then they just hang out in the water with their eyes peeping out. **Xenopus** means 'strange foot'.



To the Bird Exhibit

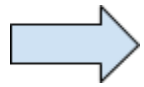
The Xenops Bird! He is so cute with his happy songs of chirps and trills. The 'aviary' is the bird part of a zoo, a magical stereo sound experience of bird songs. The **Xenops** is happy in his tropical rainforest, just like his natural habitat in Mexico and Central America. There are three species of the **Xenops** bird: '*Slender-billed, Plain, and Streaked*'. This 'genus' or 'group of small birds', are called *ovenbirds*, because of their unusual round nests made of clay and mud. With long, thin bills, they pick insects like ants and beetles from the bark and rotting wood of trees. **Xenops** get along well with all their relatives.



To the Fish Exhibit

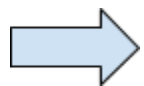
See the Amazing X-Ray Fish! Also called the Golden *Pristella Tetra*. This 1-2 inch little fish is in the 'tetra' group of fishes and cousin to the fierce flesh-eating 'piranha'. But **X-Ray** fish are very nice and are favorite aquarium pets. Their flat, 'see-through' body glows with colors, with yellow and black

striped fins to forked red tails. From the Amazon River and coastal swamps in South America, their Zookeepers feed them with their favorite worms and shrimp. X-Ray fish are happy with friends to swim around with.



To the Reptile Exhibit

The Xenosaurus! This is just a little Mexican lizard, not a dinosaur. Also, called the 'knob scaled' lizard because of upper body bumpy spots. He likes his tropical rain forest habitat with rocks at the Letter X Zoo. It's a good thing his body is flat to squeeze up in rock crevices. He likes to jump out and eat passing insects or anything else that moves! He has a forked tongue and small sharp fang-like teeth. Although he is tiny, he is ferocious and aggressive!



To the Rescue Shelter for an X-Letter Puppy!

The Xoloitzcuintle Mexican Hairless Dog! (pronounce *show-low-eats-QUEENTI-lee*). Loyal, alert, intelligent, vigilant, loving companion . . . " describes this 3,000 year old breed, sacred to the ancient Aztec civilization of Mexico. You can buy a puppy in three sizes: *Toy*, 10-15 pounds; *Minature*, 15-30 pounds; or *Standard*, 30-55 pounds. Choose either 'hairless' or 'flat coated' in colors of dark gray, black, reddish, or bronze. Graceful, elegant body lines, with an intelligent face make this an easy

breed to groom and add to the family. You will think that the 'Xolo' is thinking when he wrinkles his forehead and looks at you curiously.

It's been an exciting day at the Letter X Zoo. We hope you had an excellent experience!



Did You Know?

- The *Xenopus frog* can travel 5 miles per hour.
- The *Xerus squirrel* is 'endemic' to Africa (found only in Africa).
- The *Xantus Hummingbird* is 'endemic' (found only) in the Baja area of California and Mexico.
- The word *Xenosaurus* means: 'xeno' means alien; 'saurus' means lizard.
- The '*Xoloitzcuintli*' dog is called the Aztec Dog ('itzcuintli' means 'dog' in Aztec).
- The '*Xolo*' dog ranks 140 in popularity out of 196 official dog breeds.
- Other X animals are the *Ibex* (wild goat-Europe); and *Vixen* (female fox); *Ox*, and *T-Rex*.
- Other X animals are the *Lynx* wildcat, the *Oryx* and *Addax* antelopes of Africa.
- *Xenarthra* is a group of animals including armadillos, sloths, and anteaters.
- A *Xiphias* is a type of Swordfish.
- *Xiphosura* is a group of animals including horseshoe crabs.

True/False Quiz

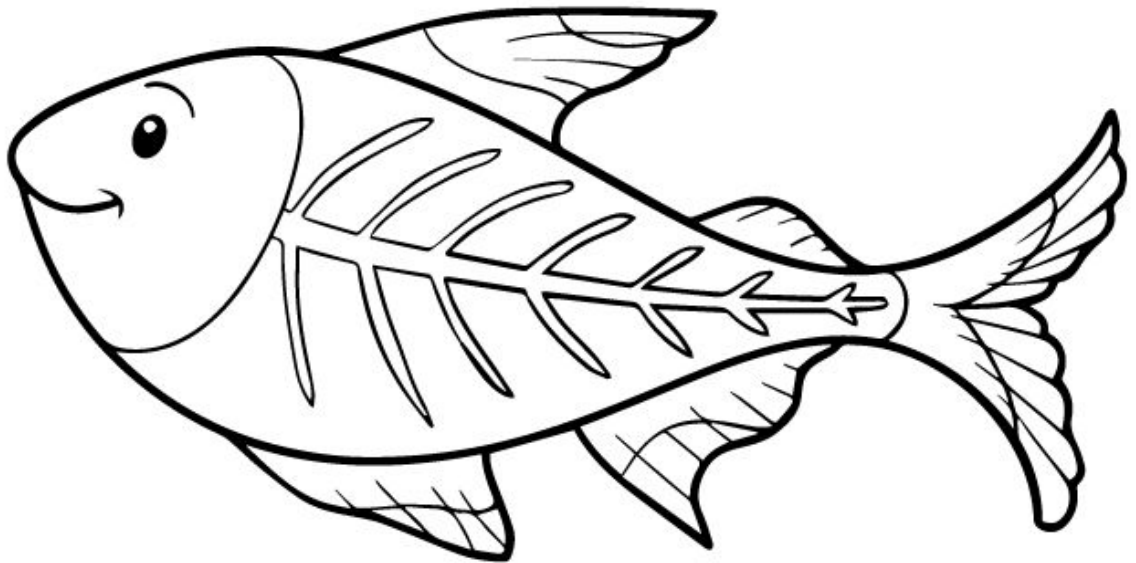
Answers are in the Story and Did You Know

1. T F A Xerus is an African Ground Squirrel.
2. T F A Xerus is a mammal.
3. T F A Xenopus is an African Clawed Frog.
4. T F A Xenopus is an Amphibian.
5. T F A Xenops is a kind of Ovenbird.
6. T F An X-Ray Fish is dangerous.
7. T F A Xenosaurus is a little dinosaur.
8. T F Xenosaurus is a reptile.
9. T F A Xolo is a kind of musical instrument.
10. T F A Xolo is a dog that is a good pet.

Color the Xerus



Xx is for
X-Ray Fish



Color the Xoloitzcuintle. Give It a Name!

