

Reference > loadXML()

# loadXML()

Loads an XML file to create a **p5.XML** object.

Extensible Markup Language (**XML**) is a standard format for sending data between applications. Like HTML, the XML format is based on tags and attributes, as in `<time units="s">1234</time>`.

The first parameter, `path`, is always a string with the path to the file. Paths to local files should be relative, as in `loadXML('/assets/data.xml')`. URLs such as `'https://example.com/data.xml'` may be blocked due to browser security.

The second parameter, `successCallback`, is optional. If a function is passed, as in `loadXML('/assets/data.xml', handleData)`, then the `handleData()` function will be called once the data loads. The **p5.XML** object created from the data will be passed to `handleData()` as its only argument.

The third parameter, `failureCallback`, is also optional. If a function is passed, as in `loadXML('/assets/data.xml', handleData, handleFailure)`, then the `handleFailure()` function will be called if an error occurs while loading. The **Error** object will be passed to `handleFailure()` as its only argument.

Note: Data can take time to load. Calling `loadXML()` within `preload()` ensures data loads before it's used in `setup()` or `draw()`.

## Examples

Goat

Leopard

Zebra

▶

■

```
let myXML;

// Load the XML and create a p5.XML object.
function preload() {
  myXML = loadXML('/assets/animals.xml');
}

function setup() {
  createCanvas(100, 100);

  background(200);

  // Get an array with all mammal tags.
  let mammals = myXML.getChildren('mammal');

  // Style the text.
  textAlign(LEFT, CENTER);
  textFont('Courier New');
  textSize(14);

  // Iterate over the mammals array.
  for (let i = 0; i < mammals.length; i += 1) {

    // Calculate the y-coordinate.
    let y = (i + 1) * 25;

    // Get the mammal's common name.
    let name = mammals[i].getContent();

    // Display the mammal's name.
    text(name, 20, y);
  }
}
```

▶

■

```
let lastMammal;

// Load the XML and create a p5.XML object.
function preload() {
  loadXML('/assets/animals.xml', handleData);
}

function setup() {
  createCanvas(100, 100);

  background(200);

  // Style the text.
  textAlign(CENTER, CENTER);
  textFont('Courier New');
  textSize(16);

  // Display the content of the last mammal element.
  text(lastMammal, 50, 50);

  describe('The word "zebra" written in black on a gray background.');
```

▶

■

```
let lastMammal;

// Load the XML and preprocess it.
function preload() {
  loadXML('/assets/animals.xml', handleData, handleError);
}

function setup() {
  createCanvas(100, 100);

  background(200);

  // Style the text.
  textAlign(CENTER, CENTER);
  textFont('Courier New');
  textSize(16);

  // Display the content of the last mammal element.
  text(lastMammal, 50, 50);

  describe('The word "Zebra" written in black on a gray background.');
```

## Syntax

```
loadXML(path, [successCallback], [errorCallback])
```

## Parameters

path	String: path of the XML file to be loaded.
successCallback	Function: function to call once the data is loaded. Will be passed the <b>p5.XML</b> object.
errorCallback	Function: function to call if the data fails to load. Will be passed an <b>Error</b> event object.

## Returns

p5.XML: XML data loaded into a **p5.XML** object.

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## Related References

<b>addChild</b> Adds a new child element and returns a reference to it.	<b>getAttributeCount</b> Returns the number of attributes the element has.	<b>getChild</b> Returns the first matching child element as a new p5.XML object.	<b>getChildren</b> Returns an array with the element's child elements as new p5.XML objects.
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