

Vegan Education in Schools

Vegan Clubs

Years 7 to 12

47 ways to inspire students to protect the rights of animals: An activity guide for high school animal rights groups.

(1) Interactive activities

1. Animal-themed quizzes

- Create trivia quizzes about animals, their behaviours, habitats and issues they face.
- Include questions about laws dealing with animals, rescue organisations and famous animal activists.
- Use platforms like Kahoot to make it interactive.

2. Animal rights scavenger hunt

- A fun activity where students complete tasks or answer questions related to animal rights, veganism or animal facts.

3. Rescue story read-aloud sessions

- Host sessions where students share or read stories of rescued animals. Include emotional and inspiring narratives.

4. 'Guess the Species' challenge

- Use sound bites or photos of animals and have students guess the species.

5. Animal hero awards

- Nominate and celebrate student or local heroes who have taken action for animals.

6. Interactive polls and surveys

- Ask students to vote on animal-related topics like the most misunderstood animals or what issues they care about.
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(2) Educational & visual engagement

7. Watching animal rights documentaries and rescue videos

- Organise screenings of animal rescues and documentaries to inspire empathy. Examples: *“Blackfish,” “Racing Extinction,”* or stories from organisations like Edgar’s Mission, Animal Liberation and local sanctuaries.

8. In-person sanctuary tours

- Partner with animal sanctuaries for tours where students can “meet” rescued animals.

9. Book and article discussions

- Assign readings of books like *“Chained”* (Lynne Kelly) or articles about animal rights/protection. Hold discussions afterward.

10. Themed movie afternoons

- Screen animal rights-themed movies like *“Okja,” “Jurassic World,”* or *“The Plague Dogs.”*
- Include vegan popcorn and discussions afterward!

11. Educational workshops

- Invite speakers to give talks on animal rights, veganism or wildlife protection.
- Focus on topics like animal farming, wildlife conservation or kangaroo conservation.

12. Documentary film-making projects

- Encourage students to create short films on animal issues or interviews with local sanctuaries.

13. Show-and-tell with rescue stories

- Students can bring photos or videos of animals they have helped, sharing their stories.

(3) Hands-On Involvement

14. Fundraising for rescues

- Organise bake sales (vegan treats), thrift sales or sponsored runs with proceeds going to animal rescues.

15. Craft workshops for sanctuaries

- Make toys, blankets or enrichment tools for animal shelters or wildlife centres.

16. Adopt-an-animal sponsorship

- Partner with sanctuaries to virtually “adopt” animals and learn about their stories.

17. Vegan cooking classes

- Teach students to make easy, delicious vegan meals while discussing the impact of veganism on animals.

18. Volunteering days at local shelters or sanctuaries

- Arrange group volunteer trips to animal shelters, wildlife rescues or sanctuaries.

19. Gardening projects

- Start a wildlife-friendly garden at the school with native plants, birdbaths and insect hotels.

20. Animal advocacy art projects

- Create posters, murals or art installations around the school that promote animal rights.
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(4) Community & campaigning

21. Letter-writing campaigns

- Organise campaigns where students write letters to MPs or companies urging them to support animal protection policies.

22. Social media challenges

- Launch animal-themed challenges, like sharing rescue videos or facts about animal rights.

23. Animal rights poetry/essay competitions

- Encourage students to write poems, essays or short stories about animals and empathy.

24. Start a student-run rescue newsletter

- A monthly or bi-weekly publication highlighting animal rescue stories, news and student contributions.

25. Photo & poster competitions

- Ask students to create eye-catching posters or take photos that advocate for animals.

26. DIY 'Adopt Me' flyers for shelters

- Collaborate with local shelters to make promotional flyers for animals needing homes.
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(5) Interactive Discussions

27. Role-playing debates

- Students can take on roles (e.g., an animal farmer vs. a sanctuary owner) to debate issues like animal farming.

28. 'My Favourite Animal' speeches

- Students can present short speeches about their favourite animals and why they deserve protection.

29. Animal rights guest panels

- Invite activists, sanctuary founders or Indigenous leaders to discuss animal protection and ethical perspectives.

30. 'Animal Rescue News' meetings

- Share current news about rescues, animal rights wins or cases of injustice during group meetings.

31. Create a companion animal/rescue animal feature wall

- Showcase rescued animals or beloved companion animals with their stories in a shared space.
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(6) Advocacy Projects

32. Animal-friendly merchandise

- Design and sell shirts, badges or tote bags promoting animal rights messages to raise money for animal shelters.

33. Write letters to rescue workers

- Send thank-you notes to those working tirelessly in sanctuaries and rescues.

34. Create animal rights bulletin boards

- Use school spaces to display facts, campaigns or ways students can get involved.

35. Propose an 'Animal Rights Week' at school

- Host a week full of events, talks and activities dedicated to raising awareness.
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(7) Additional activities:

36. Music challenge - compose songs or create animal-themed music

- This invites students to craft original songs, instrumental pieces or lyrics inspired by animal rights, rescue stories or the beauty of nature, using music as a powerful medium for advocacy and emotional connection.

37. A.I. challenge - Use artificial intelligence to advocate for animals

- encourages students to leverage AI tools to create impactful campaigns, generate educational content or develop innovative solutions that raise awareness and promote animal rights and protection.

38. Virtual "Meet an Animal" sessions

- Partner with sanctuaries or wildlife centres for a live virtual call where students meet and learn about specific rescued animals and their stories.

39. Animal advocacy escape room

- Create an escape room activity (physical or digital) with clues and puzzles themed around animal rights issues, rescue stories and species conservation.

40. DIY bird feeder or insect house workshop

- Have students create eco-friendly bird feeders or insect hotels to support local wildlife. Use this as a chance to discuss the importance of native species.

41. Empathetic writing prompts

- Provide thought-provoking writing prompts like:
 - a) "Imagine you are an animal in a sanctuary; tell your story."
 - b) "What would you say if you could speak on behalf of animals to the world?"
 - c) "What would a world be like without wildlife?"

42. Student-led animal rights podcast

- Launch a podcast series where students research and discuss topics like animal farming, rescue efforts and conservation and even interview animal activists.

43. Create animal rights TikTok videos or reels

- Students can work together to create short, engaging videos highlighting animal issues, how to live vegan or rescue success stories.

44. Wildlife photography challenge

- Encourage students to capture photos of local wildlife or nature and share stories about the animals they observed.

45. Interactive maps of animal sanctuaries and rescues

- Students can research and plot animal sanctuaries, shelters or conservation areas on an interactive map, sharing their importance and stories.

46. "Did You Know?" animal rights fact posters

- Design a series of eye-catching posters highlighting surprising or emotional facts about animals, like:
 - a) "Did you know kangaroos are shot for leather used in soccer shoes?"
 - b) "Did you know pigs are as intelligent as dogs and toddlers?"
 - c) "Did you know chickens raised for meat are bred to grow so large that many cannot even walk?"

47. Host an 'Animal Advocacy Art Showcase' to spread awareness.

- Invite students to create art - paintings, digital designs, sculptures or even poetry - that highlights animal protection themes. Organize a showcase at school or online and use the event to educate others about animal issues while celebrating student creativity.