

Vegan Education in Schools

Vegan Clubs

Years 7 to 12

Interactive maps of animal sanctuaries and rescues

Overview

Creating interactive maps of animal sanctuaries, shelters and conservation areas allows students to explore the locations and stories of organisations dedicated to animal protection. This project combines research, storytelling and digital skills, providing a visually engaging way to highlight the importance of these spaces. By plotting sanctuaries and rescues on a map, students educate others about animal protection efforts while building a resource for the school community to support these organisations.

How to create interactive maps of animal sanctuaries and rescues

1. Define the purpose and scope of the project.

- Establish the goals for creating the map:
 - a) Showcase the locations and missions of animal sanctuaries, shelters and conservation areas.
 - b) Raise awareness about the role of these organisations in protecting animals.
 - c) Provide a resource for people interested in visiting, supporting, or learning more about these efforts.
 - Decide on the geographical focus:
 - a) Local, national, or global sanctuaries and rescues.
 - b) Specific types of organisations, such as wildlife conservation centres or farmed animal sanctuaries.
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2. Assign roles and responsibilities to the students.

- Divide tasks among group members for efficient collaboration:

- a) **Researchers:** Identify and gather information about the sanctuaries and shelters.
 - b) **Writers:** Craft compelling descriptions for each location.
 - c) **Map creators:** Plot the locations on the interactive map using digital tools.
 - d) **Promoters:** Share the map and its stories with the school and community.
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3. Research animal sanctuaries, shelters and conservation areas.

- Provide students with resources to find reliable information:
 - a) Websites and social media pages of sanctuaries and rescues.
 - b) Articles, documentaries, or interviews highlighting specific organisations.
 - c) Local directories or databases of animal protection groups.
 - Encourage students to include key details, such as:
 - a) The organisation's name, location and mission.
 - b) The types of animals they care for or protect.
 - c) A brief story or highlight of their rescue efforts or conservation projects.
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4. Choose an interactive map platform.

- Use accessible tools to create the map:
 - a) **Google My Maps:** Allows users to plot locations, add descriptions and customise icons.
 - b) **Canva:** Create visually appealing maps with labels and illustrations.
 - c) **ArcGIS Online:** For more advanced mapping features and data visualisation.
 - d) Teach students how to use the chosen platform to plot points, add images and write descriptions.
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5. Include multimedia elements to make the map engaging.

- Enhance the map with photos, videos, or links:
 - a) Add pictures of the animals or facilities at each sanctuary.
 - b) Link to videos showcasing the organisation's work or rescue stories.

- c) Include links to their websites or donation pages for further support.
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6. Highlight the importance of each sanctuary or rescue.

- Use the map to emphasise the role of these organisations:
 - a) "This farm sanctuary provides lifelong care to animals rescued from animal farming."
 - b) "This wildlife conservation centre protects endangered species and restores habitats."
 - c) "This local shelter rehomes stray and abandoned companion animals."
 - Share interesting facts or inspiring stories to personalise each location.
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7. Share the interactive map with the school and community.

- Use multiple channels to maximise visibility and engagement:
 - a) Publish the map on the school website or social media platforms.
 - b) Host a presentation or assembly to introduce the project and its findings.
 - c) Print posters with QR codes linking to the map for easy access.
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8. Reflect on the project and its impact.

- Host a discussion to evaluate the activity:
 - a) "What did you learn about the work of sanctuaries and shelters?"
 - b) "How can we support these organisations in their missions?"
 - c) "What surprised you about the number or variety of rescues in our area?"
 - Share feedback from viewers or organisations featured on the map.
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9. Use the map as a foundation for future initiatives.

- Expand on the project to deepen its impact:
 - a) Update the map regularly with new sanctuaries, stories, or events.
 - b) Collaborate with featured organisations for volunteer opportunities or fundraisers.
 - c) Start a school club dedicated to supporting local rescues and animal protection efforts.

Outcomes

- **Awareness and education:** Students and the community learn about the work of sanctuaries and rescues.
- **Research and digital skills:** Participants enhance their abilities to gather information and use interactive mapping tools.
- **Empathy and connection:** Learning about the stories behind each organisation fosters empathy for animals.
- **Community engagement:** The map serves as a valuable resource to connect people with local and global animal protection efforts.
- **Inspiration to act:** The project motivates students to support sanctuaries through volunteering, fundraising, or advocacy.