

MEDIUM TERM PRIMARY CURRICULUM PLANNING



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INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains several vegan-inclusive topic plans for primary school aged learners. They are animal centered, yet vegan-friendly, as they are based on observing non-human animals in their natural habitats. These vegan-inclusive topic plans show how other animals can still feature in your curriculum as a muse to teach key skills but are written in a way that is respectful to other animals and their habitats. You can edit, swap, change or add to these vegan-inclusive topic plans as you teach them and, as your knowledge increases each year, you will become more confident, comfortable and creative.

You may already own teaching plans for habitats previously taught. It is perfectly fine to continue teaching these topics, but now that you are taking into consideration the vegan learners' viewpoint, the teaching plans in this booklet will assist you in replacing links to animal exploitation. If you have been teaching the same topics for many years, you may even enjoy the chance to enhance and improve what may have become repetitive.

THE POND

In the UK, we are lucky to have many ponds to visit for a real-life learning experience. Visiting a pond is a good opportunity to instill respect for other life and nature by ensuring children are fully aware that they are going to observe but not disturb the habitat in any way, either by interfering with the landscape or removing any of the living organisms. This example of good practice is vegan-inclusive and will ensure vegan learners feel comfortable with the learning activity. Thorough risk assessments will also have to be completed for the safety of both the children and pond life.



VEGAN-INCLUSIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

BASED ON POND LIFE

SCIENCE

Classifying

Classify other animals and understand why the features of a frog or toad make them amphibians.

Water Cycle

What is a pond? Look at the pond ecosystem as a whole. Look at its inhabitants and their interdependence on one another.

Life Cycle

Oscar and The Frog: The life cycle of the frog is a fascinating topic with plenty of resources readily available online.

Pond Plants

Discover reeds and lily plants. Their function as well as their beauty can be discussed.

Adaptation

How are frogs able to live in a rainforest and a desert?

LITERACY

Writing – Character Descriptions

Discussions and lessons can be centered around amphibious characteristics and behaviours. Perhaps discuss amphibians as hunters, their survival on the pond. Is the pond as calm as we think?

Information Texts

Create a frog information text using various research and presentation techniques.

Story Writing

A Frog Thing is a beautiful book with a lovely message about perseverance. This text can be used for story predictions, character descriptions, setting descriptions, direct speech, identifying adjectives and much more.

Research & Debate

Topics can include the importance of the frog (or another pond inhabitant) to the pond ecosystem and their food chains.

Serious questions could be asked: What would happen if the frog (or another pond inhabitant) disappeared? How important are they in the food chain that extends further than the pond?

Rhyming Patterns

Oi Frog!: Rhyming books can be used as a way to hook younger children onto the pond topic. Children could extend their learning by writing their own poems about frogs.

NUMERACY

Measuring, Counting and Calendar

Pond depth could be calculated in a measuring lesson.

Counting tadpoles could be used to practice counting up to any number.

Months, seasons and cycles can be practiced when looking at the life cycle of a frog.

Symmetry and Times Tables

Are frogs symmetrical?

Leapfrog counting in 2s, 5s, 10s or more.

GEOGRAPHY

Habitats

Look at and discover microhabitats around school. These may range from large puddles to ponds.

What makes it a microhabitat?

Sustainability

Are pond habitats threatened?

Global

Discover pond habitats around the world.

Cultural references and comparisons can be made regarding who lives, thrives, and survives in ponds around the world.

ART

Watercolour

Claude Monet - Watercolour lessons based on learning from and being inspired by Monet's lily pad. doublecheckvegan.com/vegan-art-supplies/

Vegan Clay

Design and make clay models of amphibians who live in and around ponds.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Design and Construction

Design and build a pond at your school. You could fundraise beforehand to fund the project.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Research

Research the difference between a frog and a toad. The class can make a PowerPoint to show their findings.

Creative

Film the inhabitants at your pond and narrate over it. Do this over a period of time to show the difference in seasons.

GoPro under the pond video. [youtube.com/watch?v=75FP2h8B-Og](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75FP2h8B-Og)

MUSIC

Composition

Using various instruments or voices learners practise pond related songs and noises.

Useful resources are Paul McCartney and The Frog Chorus, 'We All Stand Together', and Sesame Street: Kermit Sings 'On My Pond'

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Multi-faith

10 Plagues, one of which is frogs, appear in the Jewish Passover story.

How would a plague of frogs affect the land, people and wildlife?

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Team Sports

Learners replicate frogs as jumpers and climbers.

Leapfrog games can be played in teams.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

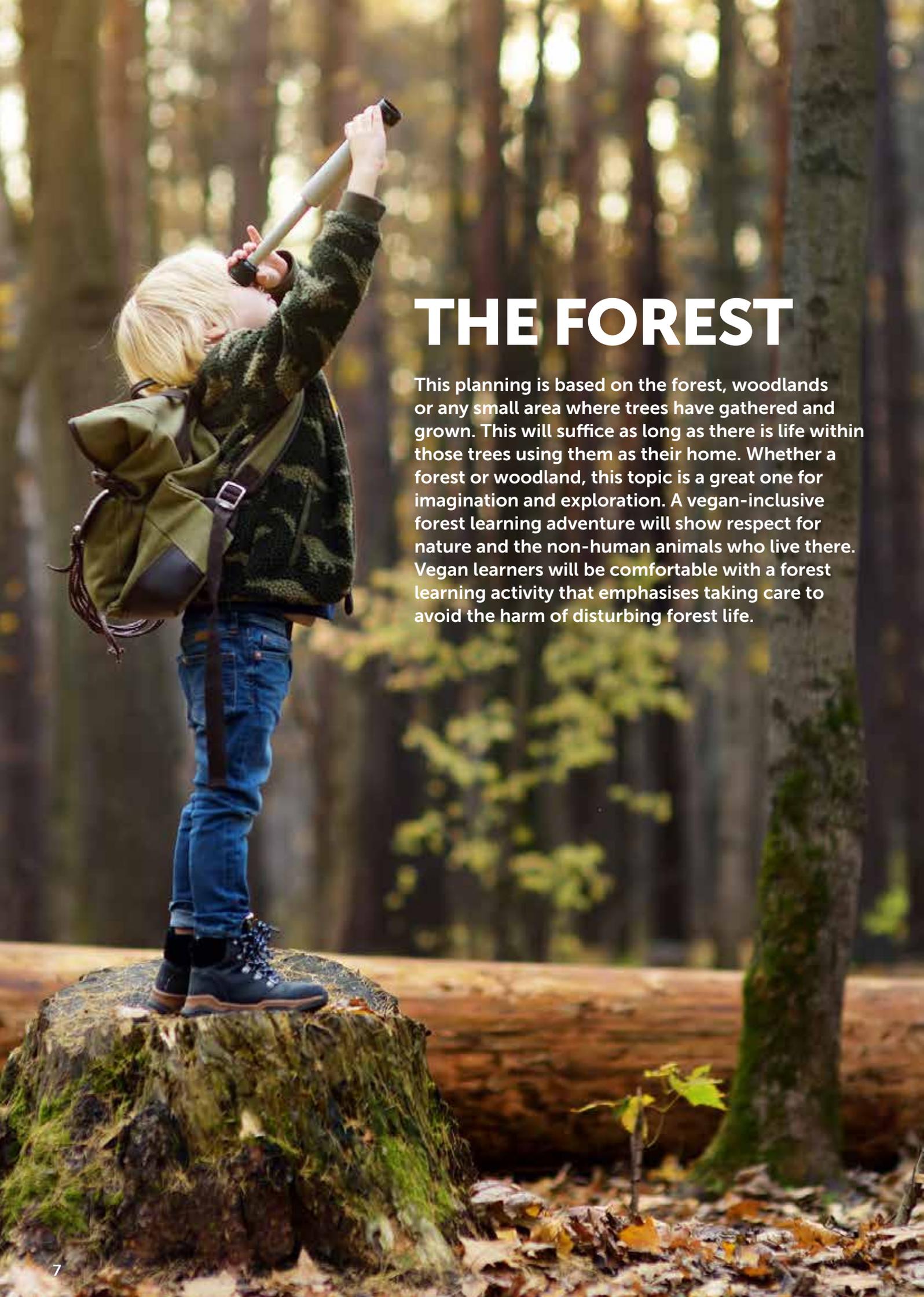
Create and/or discuss a Totem Animal Spirit as a symbol of transformation.

SCHOOL TRIPS

Regular visits to a pond.

The pond is a habitat that the learners can visit often, especially if there is one nearby or built at school. Thankfully, there are hundreds of children's books on this topic too, including *In the Small Pond* and *An Extraordinary Egg*.

If you don't live near a pond, research who would be most likely to live in a pond, practise drawing them and find out facts about them such as what they eat and who eats them. Once you have all that information, you could lay out two huge blue pieces of sugar paper and the children can stick their own pond inhabitants and plants onto it. Hang it onto the wall after you have finished and enjoy your very own ecosystem in the classroom.



THE FOREST

This planning is based on the forest, woodlands or any small area where trees have gathered and grown. This will suffice as long as there is life within those trees using them as their home. Whether a forest or woodland, this topic is a great one for imagination and exploration. A vegan-inclusive forest learning adventure will show respect for nature and the non-human animals who live there. Vegan learners will be comfortable with a forest learning activity that emphasises taking care to avoid the harm of disturbing forest life.

VEGAN-INCLUSIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE FOREST

LITERACY

Reading

Jane Goodall, *Life with Chimps*

Buddy's Rainforest Rescue can support lessons surrounding deforestation.

Story Writing

Writing stories about other animals who live in the forest can be great for learners to show they fully understand who lives there and what a forest/woodland setting looks like.

Poetry

Write poetry using the word 'forest' for an acrostic poem.

The Forest has a Song poetry book by Ludwig VanDerwater uses a range of poetic techniques suitable for KS1 and KS2 curricula, such as alliteration.

LITERACY DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Acorn to Oak time lapse YouTube video [youtube.com/watch?v=4BtKAKP5xOk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BtKAKP5xOk)

Learners can write a description or a sequence of events.

SCIENCE

Fair Test

Fair tests on how plants grow can be conducted.

The Seasons

Visit and plan lessons within woodlands.

Visit each season so that your learners specifically look at the changes throughout the year.

Research

Discover the different layers within the forest canopy.

Research and compare different types of trees.

Compare and/or collect different leaves and seeds from different forests in the area.

Species

Discuss species dependency and the parts played within the ecosystem.

Discuss the meaning of hibernation. Who hibernates? Why?

Habitats

Take a closer look at the insects who live in the forest and woodlands. Perhaps conduct a butterfly watch.

Conduct habitat research and produce fact sheets.

Growing

Grow tree saplings to eventually plant around the school.

Senses

Take learners on a nature walk. Encourage them to use their five senses to record what they have perceived.

Mapwork

Take a look at forests or woodlands on a map. Compare older maps to newer maps. Conversations could also be held regarding its destruction using chronological depletion photographs.

NUMERACY

Shapes and Art

Children create shapes with twigs, leaves and other forest finds.
Find shapes in the forest. Draw a forest using those shapes.

Measuring

Measure the growth of seeds as they grow into plants.
Collect and measure rainfall from leaves with different spans.
Discuss natural vs manmade shelters and how they have been used all around the world.
Build a school shelter.
Measure length and height of shelter materials.

Counting

Find twigs and use them for visual addition and subtraction.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Mapwork

Google Earth is a great tool for enabling learners to look at vast expanses of forest, especially the Amazon.





MUSIC

Composition

After a nature walk learners can use the items collected from their walk as instruments.

ART

Children create their own nature pictures using twigs, leaves, and other forest finds. Leaf printing is also a great way to create colourful pictures.

Vegan Clay

Experiment with vegan clay modelling using twigs, leaves and other forest finds. Hedgehogs are a great idea as the smallest of twigs can collectively look like their spines.

Artist

Study an artist such as Pete Gilbert who has painted or drawn forests and children can try to emulate their work.

ART AND DESIGN

Recycling

Trees: discuss paper recycling.

Children can look at the process of how paper is made, how paper is recycled and what sustainable practices are being used.

FOREST SCHOOL

Arrange a trained Forest School teacher to visit your school if you are lacking in woodlands. *The Happiness Tree* is a great book written by a Forest School leader, Danny English. This book can be used as an initial hook to engage children.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Woodland workout: physical activities such as freestyle climbing. Ideas can be taken from forest school activities. activeforlife.com/pe-forest/

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

A Tree Grows: A Listen Along Story Teaching Children The Value of Patience is a short video about patience, self-esteem and diversity, which is relevant to vegan-inclusion and lovely to share with the class.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & HISTORY

Buddhism, Judaism and Christianity

In Buddhism, the Bodhi tree has come to represent a number of symbols. According to Jewish mythology, in the Garden of Eden there is a 'Tree of Life'. In Christianity, the 'Tree of Life' is mentioned in the Bible in the *Book of Genesis*.

JUST FOR FUN

If a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear or see it, does it still make a sound?

HISTORY

Research an exciting forest such as Sherwood Forest in Nottingham that has famous kings, queens, or heroes such as Robin Hood.
Where does the term "tree hugger" come from?

You could concentrate on the rainforest, a typical British forest, the woodlands near you or you could specifically focus on one tree that resides in your school grounds. You could visit the tree as a class throughout the seasons and maybe eco-decorate it when you do. You could write about imaginary fairies or pixies who live in it and focus on its microhabitats. Be thankful for its breathing, for its shelter and shade and even eat a picnic or two around it. Draw it, paint it, count its leaves and perhaps you could name it too.



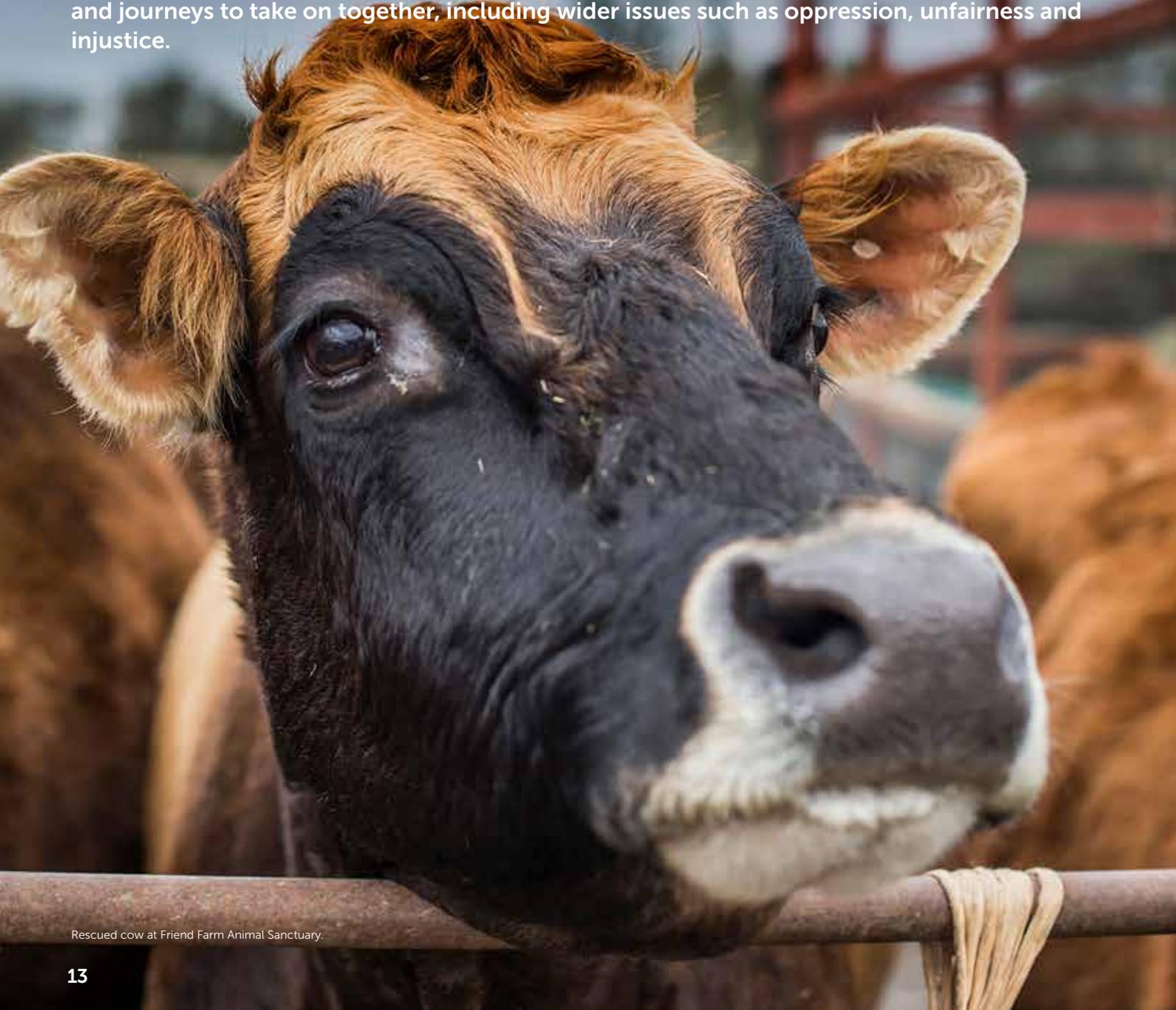
THE SANCTUARY

'Sanctuary' is one of those beautiful words that brings a smile and evokes a peaceful feeling when heard or said of freedom, tranquility and peace. Visiting a sanctuary is vegan-inclusive, and for learners who live in a hectic home or have experienced trauma, the visit can bring solace and calm when it is much needed. The happy ending for a non-human animal who now lives in a sanctuary can also bring comfort and hope to a learner who may be searching for one themselves too.

This holistic topic is equally important for children with bundles of energy too, as it provides an opportunity to channel that energy and to focus and discover the much-underused crafts of meditation, contemplation and reflection, even for the busiest of minds.

Admittedly, a sanctuary for non-human animals is not necessarily a natural habitat, but there is no denying that they are well-intentioned homes that have other animals' best interests at heart. There is a lot to be discussed and learnt about compassion, the care of other animals and their rights through the existence of sanctuaries.

This is a topic that relates to many issues relevant to vegans. It delves into what it means to be free, how that feels for all living beings and how we ourselves define freedom. With respect and compassion at its core, there are plenty of interesting discussions to be had and journeys to take on together, including wider issues such as oppression, unfairness and injustice.



Rescued cow at Friend Farm Animal Sanctuary.



VEGAN-INCLUSIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE SANCTUARY

LITERACY

Poetry

Further examine the phrase “free as a bird.” Ask your learners where they think it originated from. Follow up with some bird spotting and write a poem titled ‘Free as a Bird,’ describing what they saw.

Sequencing Events

Examples relating to non-human animals before, during and after capture. Examples could be from factory farm to sanctuary. Human examples could be from a prisoner of war camp story.

Recount

Visit a sanctuary for non-human animals.

Children write a recount of their visit. Who did they meet?

Creative Planning

Fundraise for the sanctuary that you have visited to show them your support.

Design and implement the campaign as a class.

Autobiography

Cover Mahatma Gandhi with older learners. He was a notable figure who spent time in jail for non-violent protesting.

Letter Writing

Write a letter to a sanctuary thanking them for their tireless work.

Choose a species whose habitat is currently threatened and write an inspirational plea to whoever is destroying it to stop.

Comparisons

Take both of the letters written (sanctuary and plea) then compare and contrast the tone and language used in each. How do they differ?

Desert island... sanctuary for you? Teach about the negatives such as lack of shade, food, tropical storms, etc. Perhaps compare these to positives such as peace, tranquility, no pollution, habitat without destruction, etc.

Profile Writing

Think back to a non-human animal who the children met at the sanctuary. Children could research that animal to create a passport stating all of their features and favourite things.

NUMERACY

Measurements

Design your own sanctuary and measure correctly on the blueprints. What items are necessary? How much room would a horse require in comparison to a sheep?

Word Problems

Create word problems to price how much it would be to run a sanctuary, e.g., how much hay for the horses, costing per bale, and how much would be necessary to feed a certain number of horses for a certain amount of time.

SCIENCE

Habitat

If you are lucky enough to live near one, arrange a visit to a National Marine Sanctuary.

Survival

Basic needs of survival for both non-human animals and humans. Are these met in captivity?

HUMANE EDUCATION

Animal care in a natural environment.

Discover how other animals care for one another.

Animal family games could be played matching non-human animals with their offspring using photographs and language.

Collectively create a sanctuary space within the school grounds for free-living animals.

Perhaps this could be a hedgehog den, bird box or a water pool for drinking. (Vegan-inclusive tip: this space will be used to encourage wildlife at the school, for observation only.)





HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Comparisons

Learners discover different homes from around the world. Compare and contrast their positives and negatives.

This activity can also be extended to discovering the homes of other animals: non-human animals as architects - nests, webs, etc.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Humane Education

Reflecting on 'sanctuary': should there be a place for the displaced?

Older learners will enjoy an immigration debate – relevant news articles can be used to discuss prejudice and bias.

What does it mean to be free?

Used as a conversation starter, this can be used for both humans and non-human animals.

Animal Rights

Freedom of speech is something that a lot of countries take for granted. Discussions can be based on, "Is this a human right from birth?" and "How is not having human speech relevant to the status of non-human animals?"

Choice is a word that comes up a lot in vegan arguments. Ask children to think about slaughterhouses. "Our personal choice ends where someone else's choices begin."

Human rights

Sanctuary and refugees: who are they?

Celebrate annual Refugee Week. This usually happens globally at the end of summer. Plenty of information can be found online.

Celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight, which usually happens in spring, and deals with the issue of global economic fairness and access to paid work. Vegan-inclusive tip: consider how we might develop a system that meets the basic needs of non-human animals.

Politics

Ask the children, "What is democracy?"

Develop an appreciation for democracy through various comparison lessons showing regimes that aren't democratic. Compare positives and negatives. Vegan-inclusive tip: consider how we might represent non-human animals in our democracies.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Multi-faith

Judaism – Noah’s Ark as a possible symbol of sanctuary.

Christianity – the stable where Jesus and Mary stayed as refugees is seen as a sanctuary.

Discover “moksha” also called “vimoksha”, “vimukti,” and “mukti”, terms used in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism which refer to various forms of emancipation, enlightenment, liberation or release.

Sacred Houses

Take the children to visit holy houses, e.g., a Gurdwara or church, and compare them to regular houses to see what makes them so special.

Discuss why these buildings are seen as sanctuaries. Vegan-inclusive tip: consider what sanctuary might be for other animals.

ART

Drawing

Observational drawing or painting of non-human animals at a sanctuary. Perhaps a sleeping pig.

Expressive Art with no boundaries. Discover Fauvism, Surrealism, and Abstract Expressionism and ask the children to emulate these freestyle art techniques.

DEBATE

Desert islands are sometimes seen as sanctuaries. Instigate a debate using the scenario: if you were stranded on a desert island with no food, would you eat a deceased person?

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND MUSIC

Discover the South African freedom dance. youtu.be/HL28tIVFy-A

This activity will be about letting go of all inhibitions and feeling free. Vegan-inclusive tip: ask the children how being free feels.

Children can also undertake lessons in yoga and meditation throughout the topic.

Explore different types of movement and music that create a feeling of freedom.

‘The Specials’ – *Free Nelson Mandela* song.

This topic presents the perfect opportunity to discuss other animals and their freedoms too, which would evoke some thoughtful vegan-inclusive conversations. Publications to support this topic can also include *Gwen the Rescue Hen* and *Chickpea Runs Away*.



Rescued resident sheep at Farm Sanctuary.
Credit: Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals Media



LIFE IN THE UNDERGROWTH

Insects are fascinating for many different reasons, be it their translucent wings, gangly legs and numerous eyes or their ability to spin a web or craft a cocoon. In their own individual ways, they contribute so much to this world despite being so tiny and, for the most part, hidden. Can you remember being young and seeing a wiggly worm in the mud for the first time? Was it a euphoric moment or a hysterical nightmare? The contrast in learners's reactions to different insects is spectacular and well worth bringing into your classroom setting, not literally of course.

Find out if your learners love or loathe the spider, butterfly, millipede, stick insect, wasp, bumble bee or hornet and show these non-human creatures in all their glory. One thing is for sure, if this topic is taught sensitively, learners will grow to respect these insects and will have learnt to appreciate their necessity and beauty. This learning experience is vegan-inclusive by emphasising respect and compassion for all life.

VEGAN-INCLUSIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

BASED ON INSECTS

LITERACY

Text

Junebug: No Life Too Small

Descriptive Writing

Imagine you can fly: what can you see below?

Imagine you are a small insect: how do the noisy cars and big feet appear to you?

Diary Writing

Entry: A Day in the Life of an Insect.

One learner could write a day in the life of a spider whilst their friend could write a day in the life of a fly and see how the two perspectives might complement one another.

Poetry

Write a Haiku poem about a butterfly or a bee.

By allowing learners to choose their own insect this will encourage better writing.

LITERACY AND COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Research insects and create a PowerPoint presentation based on findings.

NUMERACY

Multiplication

Use photographs to count the spots on the back of a ladybird in multiples.

Count in multiples using drawings of insect's legs.

Symmetry

Make and decorate butterfly wings.

Charts

Learners take part in an outdoor search for insects and use a tally chart to record their findings. Similarities and differences could also be made into a "Top Trumps" game where children score the skills of insects.

SCIENCE

Survival

Examine adaptation and survival mechanisms that insects possess.

Classifying

Classifying insects into categories based on similar features, e.g., exoskeleton, invertebrate, etc. What makes them unique?

Observations

Natural composting somewhere in the grounds of the school will show children how wonderful worms are.

(Vegan-inclusive tip: don't buy worms, they will find their own way in. Spread a layer of coffee grounds or cardboard at the bottom of your compost heap.)

Habitats

Together, create a habitat map of your school's microhabitats.

Life Cycles

Explore the life cycles of various insects.

Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson is a great book that supports this learning for younger children.

MUSIC

Learners could find instruments and compose their own piece of music based on the sounds that they have heard.

Using *Insect Sounds Compilation (19 insects)* on YouTube

Out of the Ark has created a purchasable minibeast song book with 13 original minibeast songs.

ART

Artist Profile

Examine *The Insect Portraits* of Levon Bliss.

Recreate or use insect drawings created by M.C. Escher as inspiration for their own versions.

Textiles

Create insects made from junk modelling and vegan materials discovering different textures.





ART AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Design

Learners design and build a large bug hotel using recycled, natural materials. Check and record who lives there using a spy camera.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Creative Design

Design a new insect species and build it from various materials.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Try out the BEE – BOT® programmable floor robot.

Documentary

The Fascinating World of Insects. youtu.be/NaB--lU1KH0
Can learners make their own documentary?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Judaism and Islam

Judaism – Look at the part insects played in the 10 Plagues.

Islam – Read about Prophet Sulaiman and the Ant. Learners discover what lessons can be learnt from this story.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Ask the children to emulate the way that insects move.

HISTORY

Symbolism

Teach about insects from mythology and their importance, e.g. the scarab beetle in Egypt.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Teamwork

Investigate dependency and communication in swarms, hives and ant hills.
Could we learn anything from the insect world about cooperation and teamwork?

Humane Education

How does litter affect insect life?

HUMANE EDUCATION

Debate

Pesticides are a key topic to hold a debate on. Discuss the pros versus the cons and the effect on insects.

Are insects pests or have we encroached on their habitats?

Insects in the 'pet' trade is another emotive topic.

Insect mass extinction is another deep topic for discussion, especially now that many species, including the bee, are on the endangered list.

Save the Bees campaign.

Growing

Gardening around school specifically to attract insects.

Planting seeds that will attract pollinators.

Conversations about their importance.

National Insect Week is a great hook with which to begin the summer topic and usually happens in June. The National Insect Week's website provides loads of great resources including *Instar* magazine for young entomologists, learning resources, videos, competitions and events.

Although their existence is in danger, and more species are being wiped out than ever before, this does not necessarily have to be the entire focus of the topic. Insects and their lives are so different from ours and yet so fascinating, each with their own amazing intricacies and skills. Perhaps you could create insect-based superheroes like Spiderman but imagine if it was a ladybird or a praying mantis. How would that look? What skills or powers would you have? Could you write a comic strip using some of the new fictional characters which have been created in the classroom? Or create symmetrical wings with tissue paper and P.V.A. (polyvinyl acetate) glue creating colourful and translucent butterfly wings which look great in a window display.





THE SWAMP

The swamp or bog may be a habitat that your learners have not visited yet. They tend to have a reputation for being dangerous and rightly so in some cases. It is because of this that a bog makes a great topic, especially for those more adventurous or imaginative learners. Other names for bogs include mire, quagmire, and muskeg - names which sound weird and inviting all at the same time. They will hook your learners in. Just like Simba in Disney's *The Lion King*[™], children desire to go where the light doesn't touch and are inquisitive about areas that are cordoned off. It's in their nature to explore. If taught thoughtfully, this topic can run its full course with that feeling of intrigue throughout. You could even create your very own homemade bog! Make this learning experience vegan-inclusive by remembering not to disturb the swamp and emphasising its importance to its non-human inhabitants.

VEGAN-INCLUSIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

BASED ON THE SWAMP

LITERACY

Instructions

Learners make their own swamp by writing and following their own instructions.

Humane Education

Use the book *The Bog Baby* to discuss leaving habitats and their inhabitants undisturbed.

Descriptive Writing

Design an imaginary bog/swamp character. Use descriptive writing and matching art. Write a story based in or around a swamp using the learner's imaginary bog character.

Information Text

Learners research the types of plants and mosses found around swamps and present this in an information text.

Poetry

Learners write a Kennings poem about the swamp.

Children can create their own rhyming poem all about 'The Swamp' or imaginary swamp character.

Rhyming and Repetition

The Swamp Where Gator Hides by Marianne Berkes has great rhyming and repetition.

NUMERACY

Shape

Guess the 3D shape in a 'swamp' tray.

Charts

Learners data collect information regarding favourite swamp inhabitants and create a chart.

SENSORY

Using a jelly/mud swamp created by learners, use imaginative play to discuss what they feel. Record these descriptive words that can be used in a variety of ways to add value to their literacy or creative work.

SCIENCE

Predators and Prey

Research food chains, food webs, producers, consumers, decomposers, predators and prey who all live in and around a swamp.

Weather

Investigation: do swamps require a certain type of weather to remain intact?

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Communication and Technology/Literacy

Watch the Okefenokee Swamp video. [youtube.com/watch?v=vrNRhYjOQU0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrNRhYjOQU0)

Create a comprehension fact sheet for the learners to answer.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Swamp Ball

Played like dodgeball except when you are hit - you wait in the other team's territory and stay in their swamp (gym mat).

Alligator Swamp

The first of two groups lay on their stomachs (alligators). The second group are the runners. The alligators leave their circle to chase the runners. Full instructions for both games are available online.

Swamp Animal Yoga Poses.

kidsyogastories.com/swamp-animals-yoga-poses-kids/

GEOGRAPHY AND SCIENCE

School trip

Visit a swamp/wetland/bog and record what the learners see. Risk assessments to be completed prior to visit.

GEOGRAPHY

Landscape

Comparisons of swamps around the world.

Which is the largest ever recorded? How do you think the surrounding landscape and/or temperature contributed?

Comparisons

Discover, research, and compare different types of swamps e.g., cypress swamps, saltwater swamps, freshwater swamps, etc.

Research

Children research water birds and migratory birds who need swamps for survival.

Habitats

How is a swamp created?

MUSIC

Bedtime at the Swamp is a fantastic resource.

Throughout the book is a small song verse that repeats itself over and over. Children can use instruments to bring this repeated pattern to life.

ART AND DESIGN

Stitching

Using the main character from the *The Bog Baby* story, children can make toys using vegan materials, stitching and stuffing.

Vegan-inclusive tip: Alternatively, using synthetic wool, the children could make “Bog Baby” pom-poms.

Artist Profile

Gustav Klimt was an Austrian symbolist painter who painted a swamp. This image could be used as inspiration for the artistic creations.

HISTORY

Drama

Recreate tactical battles that have used marshlands such as the Battle of Bosworth, which took place in 1485.

Although the *Bog Baby* book was written for a younger audience, there is no reason why this topic could not be used for any age. Older learners would best enjoy talking about imaginary bog characters and can use their wild imaginations to create characters, stories, and artwork that will keep them thoroughly engaged. Swamp character stories can be used as hooks to base the subjects around, to guide reading sessions and also as inspiration for exciting wall displays. Even those disinclined to write may be more willing to pick up a pencil and describe their swamp character for you. If you're lucky, they may even use some adjectives.

CONCLUSION

You will know which of these topics will work for the learners in your setting. Here in this booklet, there are many suggestions for what you can do with these topics so that you at least have a starting point. Take these vegan-inclusive topics, alter them, change them and add to them knowing which aspects and areas would make your learners engage the most. The beauty of teaching is that the possibilities are endless, and you can find inspiration anywhere. Vegan-inclusive tip: during the making of this booklet, we have ensured that there are no references to animal exploitation in all resources recommended, please ensure that you are mindful of this too.

Some cohorts may prefer to calmly write an information text using PowerPoint, while others will flourish making life-size insect models out of recycled scraps and materials. In some cases, you can happily do both. You could introduce vegan week (in which case we would recommend the *Vivi the Supervegan* children's book series, for which

The Vegan Society Education Team have created KS1 Teaching and Learning packs), an eco-week, nature week, or even a healthy lifestyle week and share what you have learnt with the whole school. Furthermore, by shaking up your curriculum with these humane recommendations who knows what exciting new trips or events you and your learners could attend or participate in.

Throughout these vegan-inclusive topics, you may have also noticed some similarities in content, for example, habitats and microhabitats are featured in all of them. There are lots of opportunities deliberately created for you to adopt a vegan-inclusive approach and deepen the children's understanding of the importance of compassion and empathy towards all non-human animals. In addition, learners will gain an appreciation and respect for the natural world with almost half of the year potentially spent delving into habitats and other animal kingdoms.

“

We cannot win this battle to save species and environments without forging an emotional bond between ourselves and nature as well – for we will not fight to save what we do not love.

S J Gould



RESOURCES



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