A close-up photograph of a ring-tailed lemur (Lemur catta) perched on a weathered wooden post. The lemur is looking back over its right shoulder towards the camera. It has a greyish-brown body, a white face with a black stripe through the eyes, and a long, bushy tail with alternating black and white rings. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.

Fun with Zoology

Sanctuary Build

Sanctuary Build

Today, you are going to use your animal knowledge to **design an animal sanctuary**. You will start by developing your animal wish list, and then you will work sequentially through every aspect of the planning.

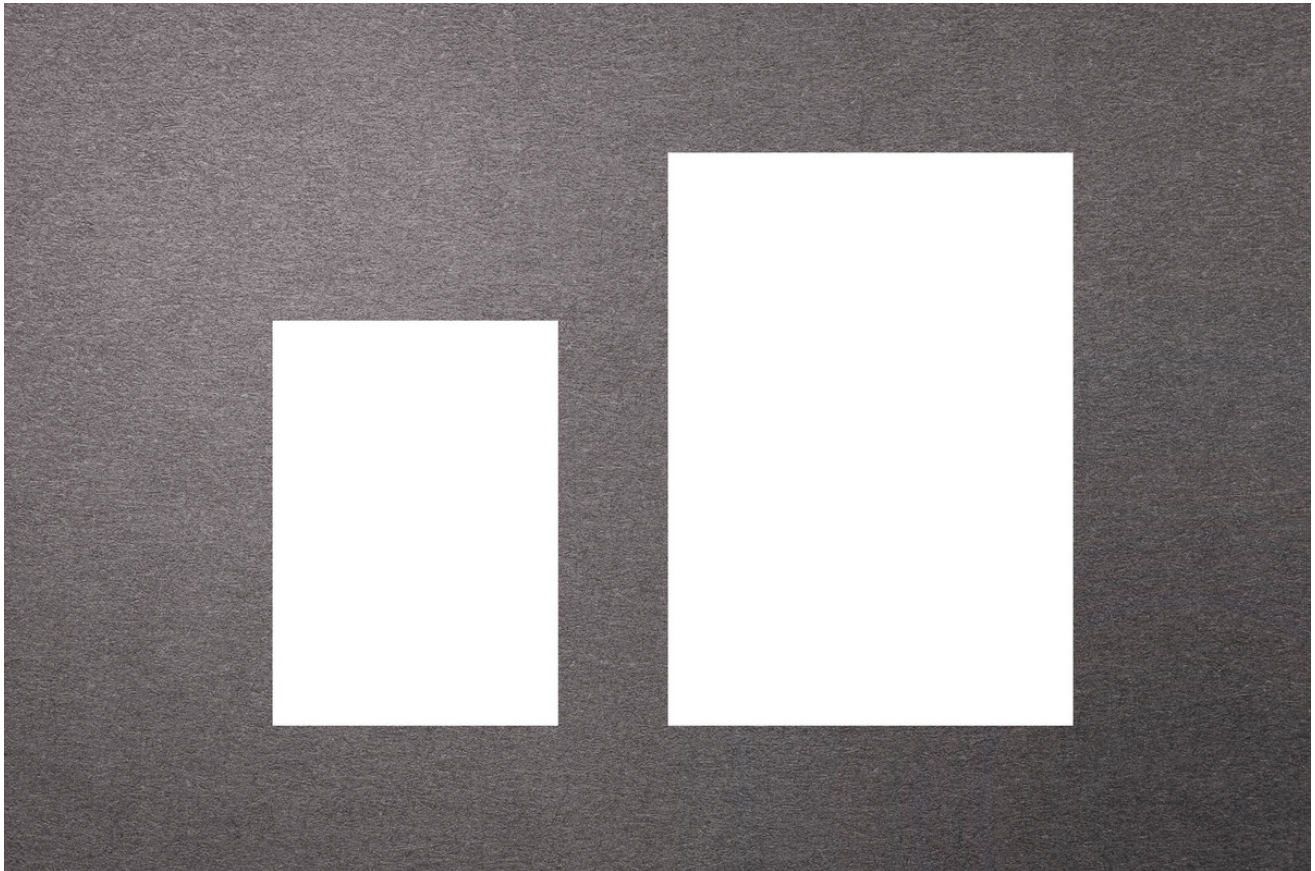
In order to be successful, you *will* need to do research. Nobody is an expert in every aspect of zoology, much less all the specialties that go into building a sanctuary.

If you are working with a team, pool your knowledge, and practice division of labor, a critical skill at any sanctuary.

Now get to work, and bring your sanctuary to life!



11x17 paper



If you have it, **grab 11x17 paper.** Your ideas need space!

The great thing about 11x17 paper, also known as ledger paper, is that it has the nifty attribute of being a normal-sized page when folded in half, for easy storage of your big ideas. Grab a few sheets, and let your ideas run wild!

Animal Wish List

Start by thinking about **what types of animals** you want at your sanctuary. Will you focus on just one species, a group of animals, or do you want as many different species as possible?

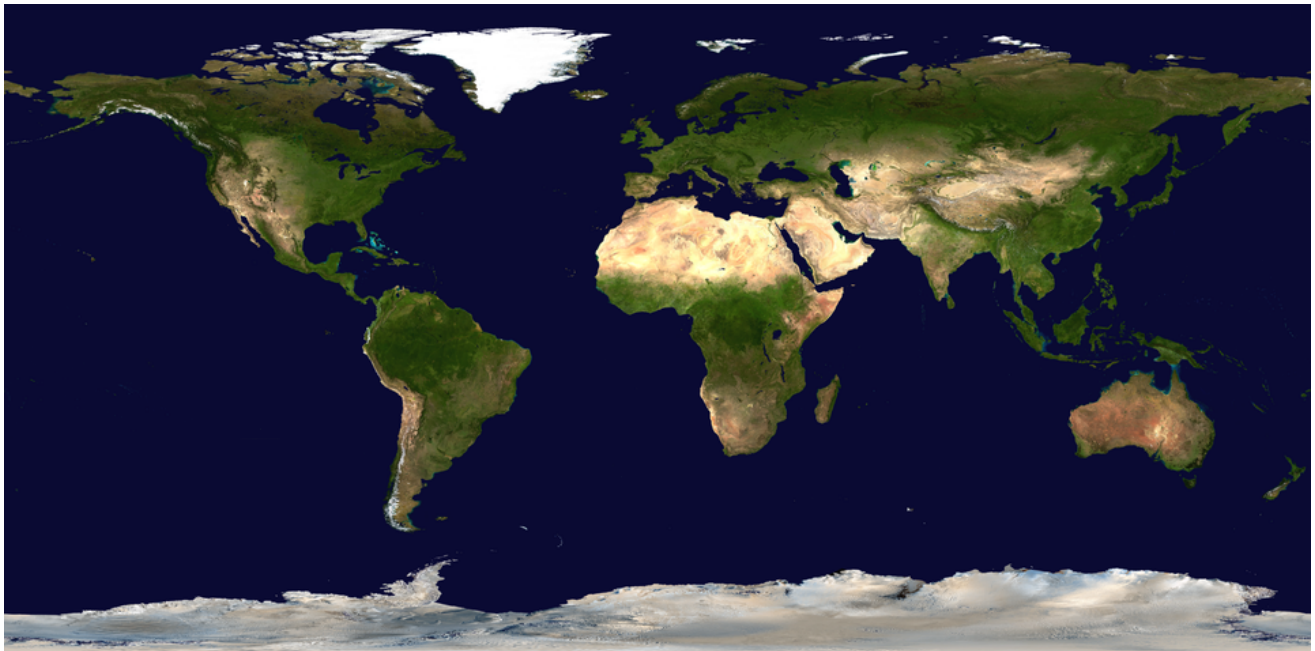
Animal Wish List



Location Matters

Next, thinking about the types of animals you want at your sanctuary, *and other factors*, **decide where you want your sanctuary to be**. Consider things such as:

- Political stability,
- Climate,
- Extreme weather,
- Access to food and water,
- Access to specialists and volunteers, and
- Transportation infrastructure.



CREDITS

Sanctuary Design

Imagine that you find the perfect piece of land for your sanctuary in your chosen location. What does it look like? What are the features of the terrain that make it perfect?

Now, get to work designing your sanctuary. **Draw a bird's-eye view of your sanctuary** (as if you were a bird flying over your sanctuary, looking down on it). Some things to think about:

- How many enclosures do you need?
- How will you incorporate the natural elements of the terrain (such as streams and hills)?
- Will you have observation areas? What about for scientists that wish to study them?
- How will your crew care for the animals each day? Will they access the animal enclosures directly?
- How will you transport animals requiring routine and emergency medical care?
- Where will you receive and store food and supplies?

Habitat Design

Now, **design each individual habitat.** If you are working with a partner or team, this is a great opportunity to practice division of labor.

SKILLS TOOLBOX ADDITION

Division of labor means dividing up a task based upon the strengths of the individuals available to help, so that you can get as much done as possible.

Learn more: [Division of Labor](#)

Think about the needs of each animal, including:

- their need for mental and physical enrichment;
- their individual space needs;
- their exercise needs; and
- protection from the elements (heat, cold, rain, snow, and extreme weather risks at your location).

Human Resources

You need human animals to make your sanctuary successful. **What human resources will you need for your sanctuary?** Think about:

- Who will feed the animals? Will the same people prepare the food as deliver it?
- Who will take care of the animal habitats, including removing animal waste, checking for safety concerns, and providing enrichment resources?
- Who will monitor the safety of the animals during the day? Who will monitor the animals at night?
- Who will provide medical care for the animals? Will you have one person, or will you need a team of people, given the size of your sanctuary? Will you need people with specialized veterinary skills, given the number and type of animals you have?
- Who will coordinate the operational logistics such as buying food, paying your staff, handling insurance and legal issues, and bills for electricity, water, and equipment purchases and maintenance?

Identity

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet"
Romeo and Juliet, Act II, Scene II

Last, but certainly not least, **pick a name and design a logo for your sanctuary!** If you have the time, design a flyer that describes your sanctuary either to potential visitors, or to encourage donors to support your effort.

If you are working with a team, brainstorm and develop options individually, at least at first, so you get the full benefit of all of your brains. You can work on picking one, which can be a hard decision, after you have several options to pick from!

If you aren't able to design what is in your head perfectly, don't worry at all! You can always find an artist to help bring your concept to life, once you know what you want. A rough sketch is fine, or if you do have the skills to fully design it yourself, go for it!

Learn More



Animal sanctuary

An animal sanctuary is a facility where animals are brought to live and to be protected for the rest of their lives. Pattrice Jones, co-founder of VINE Sanctuary defines an animal sanctuary as "...

Wikipedia / Mar 18



Behavioral enrichment

Behavioral enrichment is an animal husbandry principle that seeks to enhance the quality of captive animal care by identifying and providing the environmental stimuli...

Wikipedia / Mar 5



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