



Design a sanctuary

Lesson plan: design a marine sanctuary for a fictional village and win the vote at a role-played council meeting



Ages	12 to 18 (grades 7 to 12)
Time	75 to 90 minutes, or two lessons
Group	Up to 36 students, in groups of four
Where	Any classroom. No internet needed.
You need	The slides, one map (A3 if possible), one proposal sheet and a set of role cards per group

What students learn

- What Philippine law says about sanctuaries, and the gap between targets and reality.
- How to design a sanctuary using ecological evidence: NEOLI, connected habitats and currents.
- How to balance the needs of different people, and argue a case with evidence.
- Why enforcement, funding and monitoring decide whether a sanctuary works.

Before the lesson

1. Print one **Barangay Dagatan map** per group (A3 if you can), one **sanctuary proposal** sheet per group, and the **role cards**.
2. Give each student one role card. Mix roles within groups, so each group has several points of view.

The lesson

- 1 **The law and the reality 10 minutes, slides 1 and 2.** Introduce the target and the gap. Explain what a paper park is.
- 2 **Meet the village 10 minutes, slides 3 and 4.** Walk through the map and the roles. Point out the current, the dive sites, the fishing grounds and the nursery habitats.
- 3 **Plan the proposal 25 minutes, slide 5.** Groups design their sanctuary and fill in the proposal sheet. Each student keeps their role's view in mind.
- 4 **Council meeting 25 minutes, slide 6.** Run the presentations, questions and vote. The teacher or a student can play the captain.
- 5 **Debrief 10 minutes, slide 7.** Step out of role and discuss what makes a plan work in real life.

Answers and what to listen for

What to listen for: strong plans usually include some reef with seagrass or mangroves next to it, sit up-current of the fishing grounds so larvae drift there, avoid taking every fishing ground at once, say who patrols and who pays (dive fees are a common answer), and include a baseline survey. There is no single right location.

Making it easier or harder

- **Younger groups:** use four roles only (captain, fisher, dive resort owner, scientist) and skip the size calculation.
- **Older groups:** add a budget: patrol boat fuel, warden allowances and surveys, funded by fees and grants.
- **Real link:** invite a municipal fisheries officer, a Bantay Dagat warden or MCP staff to join the council meeting.

Curriculum links

- **Social studies (Araling Panlipunan):** local government, law, citizenship and shared resources.
- **Science:** ecosystems, connectivity and conservation.
- **English:** persuasive speaking and debate.
- **Ocean Literacy Principle 6:** the ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.

The teacher reading has the science behind every slide, with links to the sources.

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