

Equal Earth Map Use Guide

Education and public-interest guidance for schools and institutions

VANK · Equal Earth Map Share

equalearth.one

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1 Purpose of this guide

This guide helps schools, libraries, public institutions, and international-exchange organisations use the Equal Earth world map in lessons, displays, and public-information materials. Equal Earth is an equal-area map projection that helps readers examine the relative areas of countries and continents. A map is more than an illustration: it shapes how people understand the world. Rather than presenting one map as the only correct choice, invite learners to consider the purpose, strengths, and limits of different projections.



Figure 1: VANK-produced Equal Earth world map with English labels.

1.1 Before you use the map

Setting	Suggested approach
Classroom	Show a Mercator map beside the Equal Earth map and let learners compare how continents appear in each.
Library or exhibition	Name the projection and source. Add an inviting question such as “Why can the shape and area of a world map look different?”
Public institution	Use the map as a supporting resource where relative area, international cooperation, or geographical literacy is relevant.
Online sharing	Name the Equal Earth projection and source, and guide readers to equalearth.one for the original files.

2 Using the map in schools and institutions

2.1 1. Compare two maps side by side

Begin by presenting a familiar Mercator map next to an Equal Earth map. Ask learners which land areas look larger or smaller on each map. Prompts such as “How do Greenland and Africa compare?” or “What changes when we look at relative area?” help create observation before explanation. Then discuss why Mercator was useful for navigation and why Equal Earth can be useful for examining relative areas.

2.2 2. Open a conversation about worldviews

Map design can influence how people imagine the scale of regions and countries. Comparing displayed and geographic area creates an opportunity to discuss representation, evidence, and perspective. Avoid claiming that every map serves the same purpose. Instead, emphasise that every projection makes choices and that different tasks call for different maps.

2.3 3. Use the map in public spaces

Display the Equal Earth map in a classroom, library, lobby, meeting room, international-exchange space, or online noticeboard. A short caption can help visitors: “This map uses the Equal Earth projection to support discussion of the relative areas of continents and countries.” Add the original source so people can explore the map further.

3 A 20-minute learning activity

Time	Activity	How to run it
5 min	Observe	Learners identify three differences they notice between two world maps.
8 min	Compare	In small groups, compare how Africa, Greenland, South America, and Europe look across the two maps.
5 min	Explain	Explain that a projection translates the Earth’s surface to a flat map, and that different projections distort different properties.
2 min	Share	Each learner chooses one way to share the map file or equalearth.one link with a friend, class, or community.

4 Distribution and attribution

The map files are shared for education and public-interest use. For print or digital distribution, include “Equal Earth projection”, “Map provided by Equal Earth Map Share · VANK”, and “Original: equalearth.one” where possible. If you adapt or redistribute a file, make sure the projection name and source information remain visible.

4.1 Institution checklist

- Confirm that the use is connected to education, exhibition, or public-interest communication.
- Provide a short note explaining the projection’s features and purpose.
- Show the original source and download address with the map.
- Pair the map with evidence-based discussion that avoids reinforcing stereotypes about any region.
- Leave adequate space for readable attribution on printed materials.

5 Learn more

United Nations General Assembly document A/80/L.104, dated 4 August 2026, addresses global cartographic representation and the equitable representation of world regions. This website provides the original document PDF and Korean- and English-labelled Equal Earth maps in small, medium, large, original, and print-ready formats. Find the latest files and a shareable link at [the Equal Earth map sharing page](#).

This document is educational and public-interest use guidance.