

# OpenSchoolMaps: Create a story map

OpenSchoolMaps.ch — Free learning materials for free geodata and maps

## Overview

### Goal

The goal of this guide is to create a story map with uMap as part of the OpenSchoolMaps project. In geography, a story map provides an attractive and informative combination of publicly available maps, accompanying text, images and multimedia content. This is the map we will create:

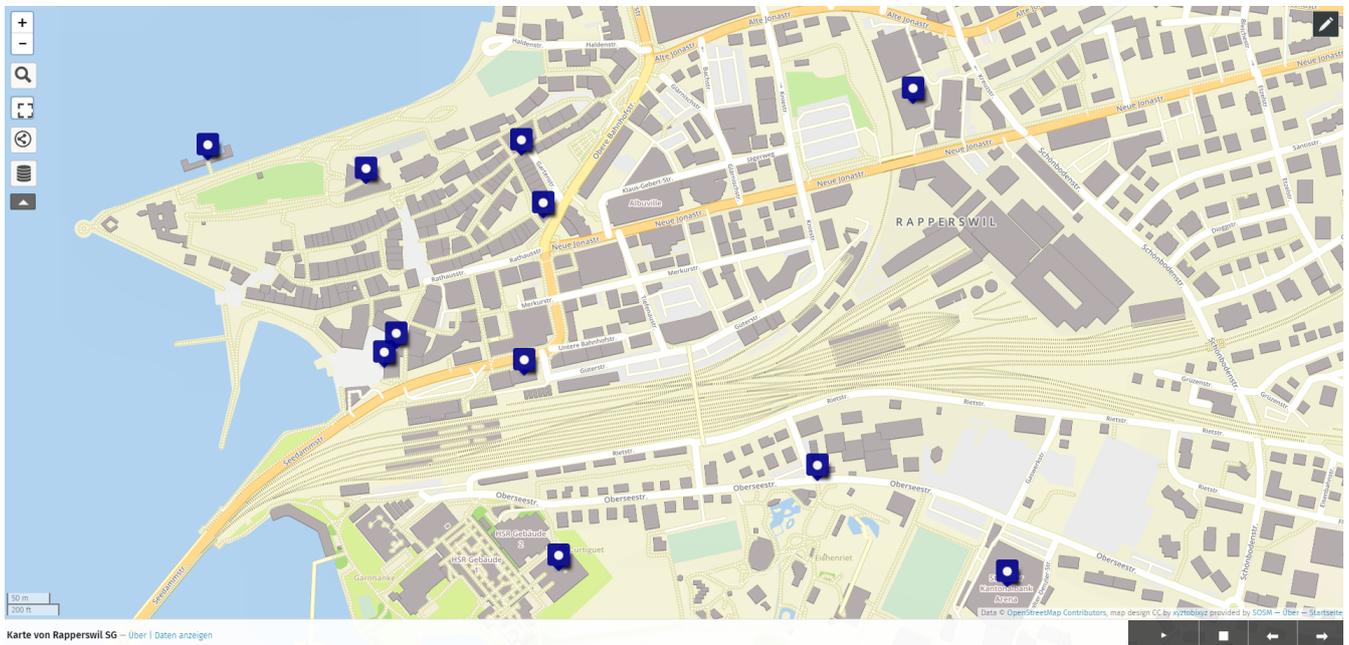


Figure 1. Example of a story map created with uMap. Map data © OpenStreetMap Contributors

You can see the full example map at [https://umap.osm.ch/de/map/karte-von-rapperswil-sg\\_1377#15/47.2188/8.8119](https://umap.osm.ch/de/map/karte-von-rapperswil-sg_1377#15/47.2188/8.8119). You may have to zoom in on the blue pins.

### Audience

Anyone who is interested in "Mapping".

### Scheduling

Depending on the size of your story map you should plan about 45 minutes for this guide.

# Preparation

First you need a web browser in which you can open the page. Consider in advance what the end product should look like and note which points you want to have in it. This step is optional, of course, but very useful to make faster progress later.

## Creating the Story Map

- Visit the page [umap.osm.ch](http://umap.osm.ch).
- Create a new map

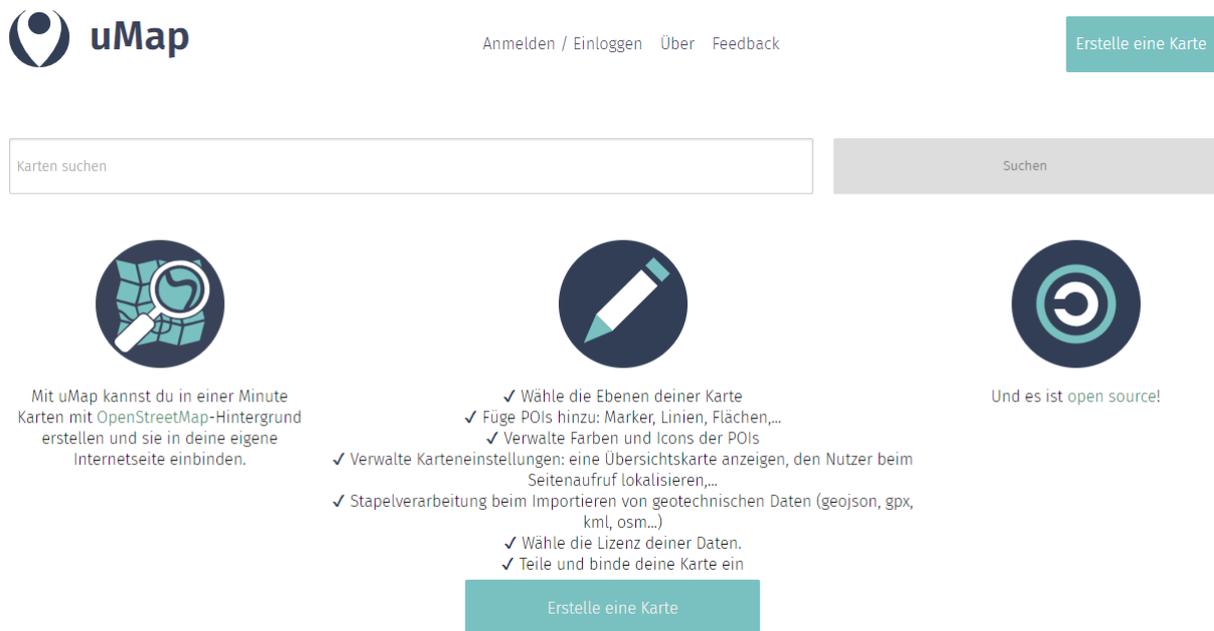


Figure 2. The [umap.osm.ch](http://umap.osm.ch) homepage

- You can select the draw a marker icon  you would like to have on the map. You can also select the draw a polyline icon  or draw a polygon icon .
- Now to the actual "story". The most important step is to activate the slide show under "Edit map settings"  Slideshow → Toggle the Activate slideshow mode". After saving the settings, you probably need to refresh with F5.

## Add Description

Now that you have added several points to the map, we can add a description for each point. These descriptions are displayed during the slide show.

To add a description, click (in edit mode) on the item you want to edit and write your text in the "Description" text box. In addition, write a suitable name for the point in the "Name" text box, as we will need it later.



To create a nice description we have some tips for you:

- To make an italic font, you need *\*one asterisk\**.
- To make a bold font, you need **\*\*two asterisk\*\***.
- To make headings you need # titles. The more # the smaller the heading gets.

Further display modes can be found by clicking on the question mark above the "Description" text box.

To add an image to the description, you first need the link to the image. If the link is <https://www.example.com/picture.png>, then you must enter the following: `{{https://www.example.com/picture.png}}`

Your description should now look something like this:

The screenshot shows a dark-themed 'Element properties' panel. At the top right is a 'Schließen' button with a close icon. Below it is a dropdown menu labeled 'Wähle die Ebene für das Element' with 'Ebene 1' selected. The 'Name' field contains 'Kantonalbank Arena'. The 'Beschreibung' field is filled with the following text: '## Heimstadion der Lakers', '\*Hier wird Hockey gespielt!\*', and the image link code '{{https://www.lakers.ch/images/images/sonstiges/St.Galler\_Kantonalbank\_Arena\_Eingang\_1600\_1060.jpg}}'. Below the description are five expandable sections: 'Formeigenschaften', 'Erweiterte Eigenschaften', 'Interaktionsoptionen', 'Koordinaten', and 'Erweiterte Aktionen'.

Figure 3. Element properties with filled description

Now add a description to each item. If you are satisfied with the result, you can click on the "Save" button at the top right and exit the editing mode.

By clicking on the play button you can start the slide show and view its story map. Clicking the Stop button allows you to stop the slideshow.

## Change display (optional)

- You can change the appearance of pins under "Edit map settings"  → Default shape properties → Icon symbol".
- You can also display the pop-up information in the sidebar. To do this, go to "Edit map settings"  → Default interaction options → Popup style" and select "Side panel". After saving and refreshing the site, the pop-up information should appear in the side panel.

## Controlling the order of the slideshow (Advanced)

To control the order of the locations in the slideshow, we need to add a sort key. Open the layer management  on left side of the screen and click on the tiny icon "Edit properties in a table" . Click on the button  and enter a name (for example "index"). Now you can enter a value for each location in the "index" column with which the website can sort the order. Since the table in uMap sorts lexicographically, for example, the number 20 will appear before the number 3. To prevent this, you should use values such as 1000 and above to sort. If you have added a sort key for each location, you must then select the newly created sort key column under Edit map settings  → Default properties → Sort key. (No selection is made here - you must enter the name of the field yourself!)

## Add Features (Advanced)

So far we have always written the whole description ourselves. In order to simplify this process, we may store this information with characteristics.

As you learned in the previous step "Controlling the order of the slideshow", you must also add new features to the table here. Two more columns that you will certainly need are "bildurl" and "text". We have added another column "opening hours" in the example. However, this is optional and of course you can add other columns if you wish.

Fill the newly created columns with values and close the sidebar again. The result should look something like this:

bildurl	index	name	oeffnungszeiten	text
https://timedotcom.files.wordpress.com/2	1000	Starbucks	06:00-20:00	Der Starbucks verkauft den besten Kaffee!
http://www.dieci.ch/tl_files/Bilder/Gelate	1001	Dieci Glace	10:00-17:00	Der Dieci verkauft hier die besten Glaces!
http://www.coop.ch/etc/designs/seitenrah	1002	Coop	07:30-20:00	Coop ist eines der grössten Supermärkte d
https://media-cdn.tripadvisor.com/media	1003	Altstadtegge	11:30-19:00	Hier könnt ihr einen sehr guten Döner ess
http://tuchschmid.ch/wp-content/gallery/	1004	Sonnenhof	07:30-20:00	Im Sonnenhof erwarten wir Sie und Ihre F
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/cc	1005	Seebad	09:00-22:00	Grosses Holz-Kastenbad auf Pfählen in de
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/cc	1006	Schloss Rapperswil	10:00-16:00	Hoch über der Rosenstadt Rapperswil, sch
https://igx.4sqi.net/img/general/600x600/	1007	McDonalds	24/7	Das beste Fastfood-Restaurant in Rappers
	1008	Kantonspolizei St. Gallen	24/7	Das gemeinschaftliche Zusammenleben vc
https://www.lakers.ch/images/images/sor	1009	Kantonalbank Arena	N/A	In diesem Stadion spielen die Lakers von I
https://files.newsnetz.ch/story/1/6/3/1630	1010	Gebäude 8	07:00-22:00	In diesem Gebäude befinden sich untersch
https://www.familienleben.ch/images/ma	1011	Eingang Zoo	08:00-18:00	Hier ist der Eingang des Kinderzoos Rappe

Figure 4. The newly created columns "bildurl" (far left) and "text" (far right).

To use these values from the table, you must insert this text under "Edit map settings"  → Default interaction options → Popup content template":

```
{text}
{{{bildurl}}}
```



If you do not have any column "opening times" or have generally used other column names, you must change or remove these accordingly.

From now on you only have to add the information in the table for the new points on the map and afterwards the display text for the popup is compiled automatically.



When creating a uMap, the data in OpenStreetMap is not changed, only "drawn on".

uMap and the OpenSchoolMaps project are based on OpenStreetMap (<https://osm.org>).

Open questions? Feel free to contact [OpenStreetMap Schweiz](#) or [Stefan Keller](#)!



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