

Across Time & Space Educational Guide

by
Girl Museum, Inc.



**Across
Time & Space**

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Across Time & Space

Across Time & Space: Multicultural Representations of Girlhood is a survey of girl images from the beginning of recorded civilization to the present. These images have been drawn from many cultures and eras to see how girls have been represented in different ways. They provide us with interesting glimpses into the lives of girls around the world.

This educational guide is designed for classroom use with students in primary/elementary school, secondary school and university settings. All the activities are designed for ease of copy and distribution to your students. Also noted are links to both the UK National Curriculum (pg. 4) and the US Common Core (pg. 5).



Discussion Questions

Students can answer the following questions on their own or discuss in groups.

The following questions can be focused on one image, a selection of images, or all of the images from the *Across Time & Space* exhibition.

1. What does this image tell you about what life was like for girls in the era and part of the world its subject was created in?
2. What does the image tell us about the social roles and attitudes of girls in the era and part of the world its subject was created in?
3. What does the image tell us about the girl featured in its subject? Are there any clues about her personality? Make up a story about who she is and why she is being featured in this work of art.
4. Are there any similarities between yourself and the girl portrayed in the image?
5. Are there any differences between yourself and the girl portrayed in the image?

Analysis: Images

Analyze the three images on this page.

Using details from the images, and the exhibit, discuss, or write a paragraph on, how representations of girls have changed over time.

You could consider checking out the Girl Museum podcast *Girl Speak!* There are tons of episodes about girls in art throughout history that can help aid your discussion.



Activities

Activity #1: Vermeer's Letter

Take a look at the painting *Girl Reading a Letter at an Open Window* by Vermeer.

Imagine you are the girl in the picture. Write the letter she is reading. Consider whom it might be from and how it might make her feel.

Swap letters amongst your class and reply to one another!

Activity #2: Girls and Games

Take a look at the images from 2nd century Roman Italy and 18th century India. They both show girls playing games. Games are an important part of childhood in many cultures.

Design your own game for children to play. It could be a board game, an outdoor game, a role-play game, or anything you can imagine.

You could even make your game and play it for real with your classmates!

Activity #3: Dazzling Dancing

Take a look at the image of the copper-dancing figure from the Indus Valley. Dance is an important aspect of girlhood, and dancers have been depicted throughout the art history of many cultures.

In groups or individually, choreograph your own dance. Think about the meaning behind the dance – is it in celebration of something?

You could perform your dance to your classmates or the rest of your school!



UK National Curriculum Links:

History KS1 & KS2:

- Know & understand significant aspects of history of the wider world
 - Understand historical concepts such as continuity & change
 - Changes within living memory
- #### Art & Design: KS1 & KS2:
- Produce creative work
 - Become proficient in drawing & painting
 - Evaluate & analyse creative works
 - Know about great artists, craft makers & designers, & understand the historical & cultural development

English KS1 & KS2:

- Use discussion in order to learn
- Ask relevant questions to extend their understanding & knowledge
- Write by in narratives, describing settings, characters & atmosphere
- Develop positive attitudes towards & stamina for writing by writing about personal experiences & those of others, writing poetry

PE KS1 & KS2:

- Perform dances using a range of movement patterns



US Common Core Links:

History/Social Studies:

- Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions

Speaking & Listening:

- Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion
- Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study

Writing:

- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate

Activities continued

Activity #4: Graffiti Activism

Take a look at the image of Banksy's artwork of the little girl under an umbrella. Banksy uses his artwork to raise attention to social issues in the real world.

Design your own piece of art based around a social injustice you feel passionate about. It could be an issue in your local community or a global story you have seen on the news.

Display your final artworks around your school to raise awareness of the issues you've chosen.

Activity #5: Freeze Frame

Take a look at the 19th century French painting by Degas. The image's ambiguous nature has confused viewers and art experts alike.

Write a story about Degas's work, using the painting as a freeze frame to either begin or end your story. Imagine what might have led to this scene or what might follow it.

Remember to consider how the characters feel!

If you prefer, you could also use the picture to begin or end a poem.

Bonus points:

Share your activities with us to be featured on Girl Museum's blog!

Email an essay, photos, and/or a video of your project to share@girlmuseum.org

Girl Museum

We are the first and only online museum about girlhood.

We exhibit, educate, and raise awareness about the unique experience of being born and growing up female around the world in the past and present.

As a community of passionate and creative individuals, we acknowledge and advocate for girls as forces for collective responsibility and change in the global context, not as victims and consumers.

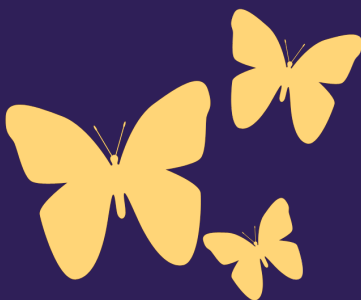
We are a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization.

Learn more and get involved at www.GirlMuseum.org



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Activity #6: Cultural Identities



Take a look at the image of the portrait of a young girl from 19th century New Zealand. The girl's skirt, necklace, and the flower in her hair are meant to show aspects of her culture.

What objects would you use to represent your own cultural identity?

Take a photo of yourself surrounded by items that you feel portray important features of your culture.

You might also want to wear an outfit that you feel interprets your cultural identity.

You could put these images together in a book to share with your school and local community, or display them on a bulletin board.