

Defining Our Terms

Educational Guide

by
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Defining Our Terms

Defining Our Terms is Girl Museum's first exhibition to showcase what we are about, our point of view and what topics we will explore further in the future via our four exhibition themes.

This exhibition looks at defining these four main terms and also introduces some sub-themes we hope to cover either in current or future exhibitions.

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.

As you explore the *Defining Our Terms* exhibition, use these questions as prompts to discuss some of the main ideas presented:

1. What is a museum? What does this term mean to you?
2. Who and what belongs in a museum? Why?
3. What is a girl? What does this term mean to you?
4. What is girlhood? What does this term mean to you?
5. Why is it important to learn about girls' history?
6. Why is it important to document and preserve girls' history?
7. Why is having a museum about girls important?

Analysis: Images

Analyze the images on this page. They are a selection from Girl Museum's current exhibitions.

Consider what themes the image might cover, what we could learn from it, and why it's an important aspect of girls' past, present, or future!

The photos in this guide have been selected from the following Girl Museum exhibitions:

Across Time & Space
Celebrating Girl Up
Girl Child in India
Girl Saints
Hina Matsuri: Celebrating Girls Day in Japan
Girls of the British Empire: Home & Away
Illustrated Girls
Surfer Girls



Activities

Activity #1: Be a Girl Museum Curator

One of Girl Museum's goals is to build an archive dedicated to preserving girlhood. What do you think would be important to include in this?

Choose an object or artwork which you feel is important to your experience of girlhood or childhood. Write a small paragraph about it imagining this will be included in a museum exhibition!

Share your choices with your classmates and discuss why they are important to you.

Activity #2: Girlhood in Art

Many different girls are represented throughout art history in many forms, such as *mother* or *princess*.

Choose a significant girl in your life and produce a portrait of them using whichever media you feel most comfortable with. It could be a celebrity, someone from your local community, or even someone from your family!

Why did you choose her?

Activity #3: Art of Girlhood

Girls often play a vital role in family events and community rituals.

Think of a time you were part of a family tradition and write about your memories of the experience.

It could be at a celebration like a birthday or wedding, at a festival such as Christmas or Diwali, or even something simple like a game, song or meal!



UK National Curriculum Links:

History KS1 & KS2:

- Inspire pupils' curiosity about the past
- Ask perceptive questions & think critically

Art & Design: KS1 & KS2:

- Produce creative work
- Become proficient in drawing & painting
- Evaluate & analyse creative works

English KS1 & KS2:

- Use discussion in order to learn
- Ask relevant questions to extend their understanding & knowledge
- Articulate & justify answers, arguments & opinions
- Opportunities to write for a range of real purposes and audiences
- Noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary



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: Girls in the World

Girls across the globe will find similarities and differences between what is valuable to each of them in their daily lives.

Create a collage about what is important to you in your daily life. Consider all aspects of your life such as food, education, play, and family!

Compare your collage to a girl from another part of the world or a different culture. What things are the same? What are different?

Activity #5: GirlSpeak

Girl Museum aims to create a platform where girls can raise and discuss issues and ideas important to them and their lives.

Write a proposal for an exhibition, podcast, or blog piece on a topic that you feel is important and should be included in Girl Museum.

Tell us why you feel this issue or idea needs to be discussed and what details you aim to cover in your exhibit.

See page 6 for how to submit your idea to us – and we may even feature it in an upcoming exhibit!

These websites could help you with your research:

- Wikimedia Commons (www.wikimedia.org)
- Library of Congress (www.loc.gov)
- National Archives (www.archives.gov)
- Queensland State Archives (archives.qld.gov.au)

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.

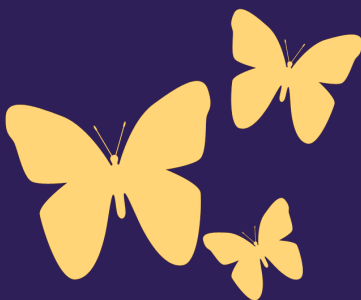
We are a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization.

Learn more and get involved at www.GirlMuseum.org



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Share with us!



Collaborating with Girl Museum is one of the best ways to really be a part of the movement for girl empowerment!

We would love for you to share your ideas, writing, and artwork with us!

Send your photos, videos, or ideas to us at share@girlmuseum.org

You might want to check out the *Volunteer* page on our website! Giving your time to Girl Museum is truly rewarding and couldn't be easier.

Almost all of our projects are done virtually, so your volunteer time is typically spent where you choose. You can get involved as an individual, as a class, or with your school – to produce your own project, or participate in one of ours, like *Heirloom!*