



Surfer Girl Educational Guide

by
Girl Museum, Inc.



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Image courtesy Tom Tolkien

Surfer Girl

Surfer Girl explores girls in surf culture and the impact that they have had on the world. We explore the history of girls in surfing, including the challenges faced by and success stories from both amateur and professional surfers. Our exhibit utilizes submissions from surfer girls all over the world – including essays, videos, and photographs – to break down myths and tell the real stories of surfer girls.

This educational guide is designed for classroom use with students in secondary school and university settings. All the activities are designed for ease of copy and distribution to your students.

Answers to the quiz on page 5: (1) True, (2) True, (3) b, (4) a, (5) True, (6) False, (7) c, (8) c, (9) True, (10) True.



Discussion Questions

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

1. Women were accepted as equal to men in surfing in ancient Hawaii. What does this suggest about gender roles in ancient Hawaii?
2. What effects did the arrival of Europeans in Hawaii have on the surf culture and women's surfing?
3. During the Boom Culture, there were many pressures for surfer girls to still fulfill stereotypical gender roles in society. What were some of these pressures? Do you think only surfer girls were under these pressures? Do women still have these pressures today?
4. The surfer girls in this exhibit have had to overcome their specific fears that had to do with surfing. What are some of these fears? Describe a time that you have had to overcome a fear to accomplish a goal.
5. What were your thoughts about girls in surfing before viewing this exhibit? Have your thoughts changed? Why or why not?

Analysis: Images

Analyze the three pictures on this page. Using details from the photo and the exhibit, discuss how representations of women in surfing have evolved from the first illustrations by Europeans to today.

After you've finished, listen to Girl Museum's podcast "Girls in Art: Surfer Girls" for more detailed information on how art has reflected surfer girl culture throughout history.



Image 1 (top right):
Illustration from *Hawaiian Folk Tales* by Thomas G. Thrum.

Image 2: Female surfers
(Elitism.)

Image 3: Chelsea Roett during the women's pro competition in the Coastal Edge East Coast Surfing Championship, 2013. (Bill Tiernan, *The Virginian-Pilot*.)



Activities

Choose one of the following activities to complete:

Activity #1:

“Surfer girls to me, are naturally beautiful, daring and confident individuals, who make great role models!” – Ishita Malaviya.

This quote describes three important characteristics of a surfer girl:

- Natural beauty,
- Confidence, and
- Role model.

Create a collage that describes the quote and the three characteristics. Use details from the exhibit and other details you find from your own research. On the back of the collage, write a paragraph of what this quote means to you.

Activity #2

Research a surfer girl that was not mentioned in the exhibit. She can be a professional, amateur, or even someone you know! Make a multimedia presentation about her life and her impact on surfing culture.

Check with your teacher about specific formats and requirements. Consider utilizing Prezi, VoiceThread, or even recording your own video!



Media Resources

The following online resources may help in your research:

- Wikimedia Commons
- Flickr – most works are licensed under Creative Commons
- www.Jamendo.com – a music sharing site of all legal to use songs
- Library of Congress (www.loc.gov)
- National Archives (www.archives.gov)
- Queensland State Archives (archives.qld.gov.au)

Surfer Girl Quiz

1. *True or False:* In ancient Hawaii, women surfers were equal to men.
2. *True or False:* Europeans arrival in the 1600s changed surf culture in Hawaii.
3. During the Boom Culture, which boy band helped develop the stereotypically surfer girl image?
 - a. The Monkees
 - b. The Beach Boys
 - c. Bay City Rollers
4. Social pressures that surfer girls endured during the Boom Culture were:
 - a. To become wives and mothers
 - b. To become college educated
 - c. To go to beauty school
5. *True or False:* In 1963, Linda Benson became the first woman to surf Waimea Bay at the age of 15.
6. *True or False:* Darci Liu became India's first female surfer, and Ishita Malaviya became China's first female competitive surfer.
7. In Murcia, the brother and sister team of Angel and Gloria Rodriguez Arnal make sustainable surfboards from what material?
 - a. Plastic
 - b. Metal Rods
 - c. Wine Corks
8. Which of these is not a common fear with surfing?
 - a. Injury
 - b. Sharks
 - c. Gear malfunction
9. *True or False:* The largest female surfing competition is the Ford Supergirl Pro.
10. *True or False:* Surfboards incorporate technology, sustainability, innovation, and sometimes multiple generations of surfers.

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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Video Analysis



Divide yourselves into three groups. Each group will watch one of the following videos featured in the exhibit:

- Wahine Project
- Mercedes Maidana
- Mire Manickam

Each group should answer the following questions as they watch their assign videos:

1. What is this video about?
2. What does this video tell me about modern surfer girls?
3. Are there any stereotypes about surfer girls portrayed in this video?