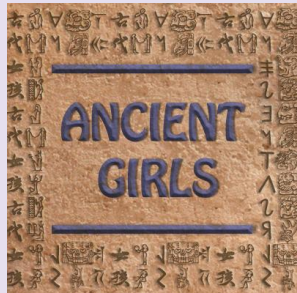




Educational Guide



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Ancient Girls

Use this education guide to interact with our exhibit and gain a deeper understanding of the lives of girls in ancient civilizations such as Assyrian/Babylonian, Chinese, Egyptian, Minoan and Mycenaean, the Indus Valley, and the Maya. This exhibition and its educational activities will give you a peek into the important roles that girls had in these civilizations.

Activities in this guide are aligned to U.S. and/or U.K. educational standards. They are designed to be used by students and teachers as school lessons or enrichment opportunities.



Discussion Questions

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

The questions can be focused on one ancient culture, comparing a selection of cultures, or all of the cultures in the *Ancient Girls* exhibition.

1. Before viewing the exhibition, what do you think life was like for young girls in ancient times?
2. What activities did girls in ancient civilisations take part in?
3. What were the main attitudes towards girls in the ancient civilisations? Were they the same across multiple civilizations, or did they differ?
4. What types of sources are used to help historians gather information about the life of young girls in ancient times?
5. Why do you think it is difficult to collect evidence about young girls in the ancient world?

Activity: Think like a Pharaoh!

Queen Hatshepsut, Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt

Have you ever heard the name Hatshepsut? No? Many haven't. Hatshepsut was a female pharaoh during the 18th dynasty of Ancient Egypt. To be a pharaoh in Egypt, you needed to be a male. Look at the statue of Hatshepsut to the right - notice anything? She's depicted as a male! This was the only way she would be accepted, and she struggled throughout her 20 year rule for her subjects to respect her.

What would you have done if you were pharaoh of Ancient Egypt during the prosperous 18th dynasty?

Would you have built temples to the gods?

Would you have built strong friendships with foreign lands? Or would you have gone to war? Why?

Would you have travelled abroad and brought back magnificent things?

How would you have helped your people?

Write or draw your ideas!



Hatshepsut's temple, Djeser-Djeseru ("Holy of Holies") cut into the rock cliffs on the west bank of the Nile near the Valley of the Kings.

Image: Wikimedia Commons.



A stone statue depicting a seated Hatshepsut. Image courtesy The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Common Core

Standards

CCR.W.5.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly

Activity: A Day in the life of... Part 1



Pick one of our ancient civilizations, read about it in our exhibit, and do a little of your own research. Get a clear idea about how a girl's life might have been like during that civilization.

Now, imagine you are an Ancient Girl and write your own diary entry describing a typical day. Consider the following:

- What are your friends and family like?
- What sort of tasks are you given during the day? Do you go to school or work?
- Do you have a daily routine?
- How do you feel about your day?
- What can you smell, see, taste, hear and feel?

Use your imagination to put yourself in the shoes of an ancient girl and try to understand the thoughts and feelings that she might have had.

Share your diary entries with others and compare your ideas about life in the ancient world. How are your stories similar or different? Is this because you chose different cultures – or did you find different sources of evidence? How do we know which evidence is correct?

UK National Curriculum Links

English, Writing KS1 & 2:

- Retrieve and record information from nonfiction.
- Writing for a range of purposes and audiences including: stories, scripts, poetry and other imaginative writing.

History, KS1 and KS2:

- Compare aspects of life in different periods.
- Study significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.

US Common Core

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.3

- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.

Activity: A Day in the Life of... Part 2

Now that you have thought like an Ancient Girl, and considered what her life was like on a daily basis, you can start to imagine what you would look like if you were an Ancient Girl.

Using your new knowledge, try to draw a picture of yourself as you would be in ancient times.

- What clothes and accessories would you wear?
- What would your hair look like?
- Did you wear makeup or perfume?
- Did you dress up for special occasions?

As you draw, think about the traits and qualities you have and how they would help or hinder you in your ancient life. Did how ancient girls dressed give you any clues about their roles in life?



Girls playing. Image courtesy Quatr.



Dancing Girl, c. 2500 BCE from Mohenjodaro. Image courtesy National Museum - New Delhi.

UK National

Curriculum Links

Art and Design, KS1:

- Use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share ideas, experiences and imagination

History, KS1 and KS2:

- Compare aspects of life in different periods.
- Study significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.

Girl Museum

We are the first and only online museum dedicated to girls.

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 registered 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization.

Learn more and get involved at www.GirlMuseum.org



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Activity: Weave Your Own Basket

UK National

Curriculum Links

History, KS2:

- Explore the work of the earliest civilizations

Art and Design, KS1&2:

- Become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques
- Understand the historical and cultural development of art forms.

Equipment

- 3 sheets of coloured paper
- Pencil and ruler
- Scissors
- Glue and tape

Instructions

1. Using a pencil and a ruler, cut 1-inch strips from coloured paper.
2. Lay 4 strips next to each other vertically on the table.
3. Start weaving in 4 strips horizontally to make a cross. You may need a partner to help you hold down the strips at first, but as more are woven, it will become more secure.
4. Fold the ends of the strips to begin to form 4 sides of the basket. Use your ruler to help fold a straight line.
5. Now take another strip and, starting from the bottom of one side, go around all sides horizontally. You may use tape to hold the strip down if you're finding this tricky. Add a second strip above the first and repeat.

In Ancient Greece, textile production was one of the most profitable skills a woman or girl could have. Weaving was one skill that a girl would have been taught from an early age.