Celebrating Girl Up showcases a program that focuses on the vital importance of girls for the future of the planet – the UN Foundation’s Girl Up campaign. The campaign aims to “give American girls the opportunity to become global leaders and channel their energy and compassion to raise awareness and funds for United Nations programs that help some of the world’s hardest-to-reach adolescent girls.” Our exhibition highlights four girls participating in Girl Up programs in Ethiopia, Malawi, Liberia and Guatemala, along with one of their US teen advisors.

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

Use details from the Celebrating Girl Up exhibition to help you answer the following questions:

1. Why are the lives of people we don’t know important to us?
2. Why is it important to be able to empathize with people we don’t know?
3. Why is it important to help people we don’t know?
4. What do you think life would be like for a girl growing up in a developing country?
5. How are the experiences of a girl growing up in a developing country similar or different to your experiences of growing up?
6. Can campaigns like Girl Up help us better understand the lives of others and enable us to make positive changes in all our lives?
Analysis: Themes

Analyze the seven different themes on this page.

Discuss, write a short paper, or produce a mind map or collage about what each of these themes means to you and how they feature in your own life.

Consider how we all have diverse experience of these themes and that the themes mean similar and different things to each individual.

Think about what these themes might mean to girls growing up in a developing country.

For example, read the full interview with Rocio Ortega, who was asked to give her ideas about these themes and what they mean to her, in our exhibit.

Girls

Education

The power of one

Leadership

Girls helping girls

Altruism

Social Responsibility

Girl Museum, Inc.
Activities

Activity #1: Altruism

Rocio Ortega and all the Teen Advisors at Girl Up are great examples of how selfless actions can make a huge change for the lives of others.

Organize and carry out an act of kindness either individually, in groups, or as a class. The only reward should be feeling good about improving the lives of others.

It could be volunteering at a local charity or simply helping tidy the classroom at the end of each day!

Activity #2: Leadership

Find a girl who is leading and inspiring others in your community to make a difference on a social issue.

If you can, interview her about her leadership role or, if not, conduct your own research. Use the information collected to produce an article convincing your readers to support this girl leader.

Activity #3: Girls Education

The significance of girls receiving an education is clearly represented throughout the exhibit.

On your own or in groups, write a speech about why you believe girls’ right to an education is so important. Consider using stories from the exhibition to help illustrate your points.

Present the speech in class, at a school assembly, or in your local newspaper.

UK National Curriculum Links:

History KS1 & KS2:
• Understand historical concepts such as continuity & change
• Changes within living memory

Art & Design: KS1 & KS2:
• Produce creative work

English KS1 & KS2:
• Use discussion in order to learn
• Ask relevant questions to extend their understanding & knowledge
• Articulate & justify answers, arguments & opinions
• Identify the audience for and purpose of the writing
• Drawing on reading and research where necessary
• Mastery of language extended through public speaking and debate

Geography KS1 & KS2:
• Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human geography of a small area of the UK and a contrasting non-European country
• Describe and understand key aspects of human geography
Activity #4: The Power of One
The Power of One reminds us that a single contribution can make a huge change.

Create an artwork, using whichever media you feel comfortable with, inspired by the concept of The Power of One.

Display your class’s artwork for the whole school to be motivated by. You could even sell tickets to your gallery and donate the profits to a charity supporting girls in developing countries. Your single donation could change a girl’s life for the better!

Activity #5: In Depth
Use the exhibition, along with your own research, to write an essay on one of the following titles:

• How has society changed for girls over the past 50 years in your country/a developing country?
• In the past 30 years how has the world become more/less connected?
• How has Girl Up impacted girls’ lives in Ethiopia/Guatemala/Liberia/Malawi/the US?

Ask your teacher for advice on word count.

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.

Photo: Television star and Girl Up Champion Victoria Justice visits Guatemala for the UN Foundation’s Girl Up campaign, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011. Justice is here to learn about Girl Up’s work to support the work of the United Nations to help girls in developing countries. (Photo Stuart Ramson for UN Foundation)
Rocio Ortega, Girl Up Teen advisor featured in the exhibit, started a Girl Up Club in her high school. It is still running today despite the fact she has left the school to move on with her own education.

Consider starting up your own Girl Up Club at your school or in your local community. The details about how to get involved can be found at girlup.org in the “Take Action” section of the website.

You can also look for similar programs to Girl Up that are available in your area to get involved with. Clubs such as this are a great way to promote girls helping girls within your community!