



Educational Guide



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Alternative Girls

Alternative Girls explores an important part of culture: music. The exhibit brings together girls and women from around the world to showcase their experiences in making, sharing, and appreciating music.

Use this education guide to interact with the exhibit and learn about new musical heroes.

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.

1. Have you ever played a musical instrument? If so, how did you feel the first time you tried to play it?
2. Take a look at *She Shreds* magazine at www.sheshreds.com. Why do you think girls who play guitar might not be as well-known as boys who play guitar?
3. Do you think some musical instruments are thought of as “boy” instruments or “girl” instruments?
4. Think about people you know who play instruments. Do you know any famous musicians or have any friends who buck the trend of “boy” and “girl” instruments?

Activity: Make Your Own Grrrl Zine

Riot Grrrls created zines as a way to express themselves, spread their message, and understand their experiences as young women.

Create your own grrrl zine by following these instructions!

- A4/Letter Size Paper
- Scissors
- Pencils and colored pens
- Old magazines/computer images
- Glue

1. **Think of a title:** Like magazines, all zines have a title. This will help focus what your zine will be about - is it personal? A story? A fanzine? Or just completely random collection of thoughts and feelings? An example title could be 'Rock Grrrls' for a zine focusing on rock music or geology.
2. **Making the zine:** Take 3 sheets of paper (more for a longer zine) and fold them in half to make a booklet. Place your title onto the front page - this can either be hand drawn, or it can be cut-and-paste lettering from a magazine. The more it stands out the better!
3. **Making the zine collage:** Find images that relate to your topic in old magazines or on the internet. You might want to look at images that you think represent 'perfect' girls, and 'alternative' girls. These can be pictures, cartoons, or even your own hand drawings. Cut them out and paste them into your zine to make a collage. Be creative!
4. **Images and Words:** Use words to describe the images. Think about how these images make you feel and write about your topic - through single words, stories, poems or lyrics!
5. **Create your own alternative girl identity:** Using your collage, 'try out' different identities by creating your own idea of 'Alternative Girlhood' with images. You can repeat this as many times as you like, turning the identities into specific characters for a story or making as many alternative girl identities as possible.
6. **Sharing your zine:** If you want to share what you have created and have access to a printer or photocopier, you can use this to make more copies and share with your friends. You can also share your zine by sending it to share@girlmuseum.org - and we'll showcase it on our website!

Educational Standards

UK Standards:

KS3/KS4

Consider how writing reflects the audiences and purposes for which it was intended.

Produce creative work, exploring ideas and recording experiences

U.S. National Art

Standards:

Anchor Standard 2

Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

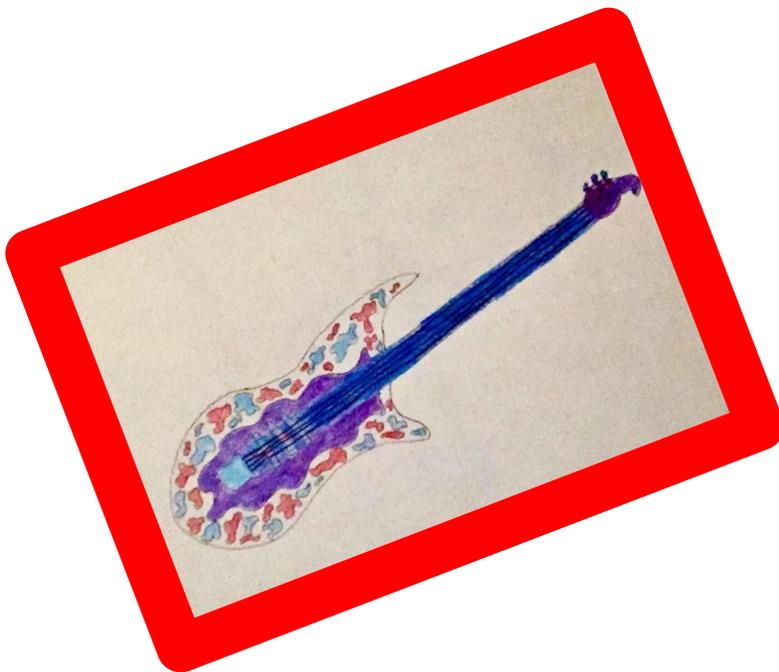
Anchor Standard 6

Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

Craft: Design Your Own Instrument

There are so many unique instruments being played around the world. They make different sounds, are played with different body parts, and have many different designs. If you could design your own special instrument, what would it look like? Follow the instructions below to find out!

1. On a large piece of paper, draw the outline of a musical instrument that you are familiar with, or would like to play. You can copy or trace it from an online image if you like.
2. Decorate your instrument with colors, patterns, and drawings to make it personal to you. You could use a mix of media by gluing and collaging different materials to make it really unique and exciting.
3. Share your finished design with Girl Museum! We would love to see your unique ideas. Send a picture to share@girlmuseum.org and we'll showcase it on our website.



Educational Standards

UK Standards:

KS1/KS2

Produce creative work, exploring ideas and recording experiences

Appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians.

U.S. National Art

Standards:

Anchor Standard 2

Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Activity: Plan Your Performance



Educational Standards

UK:

KS1/KS2

Appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians

Stories, scripts, poetry and other imaginative writing

Common Core:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3.d

Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.3.e

Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

Now that you have an instrument designed to represent you, imagine what it would be like to perform with that instrument. Where would you want to play your new instrument?

1. Briefly describe how playing your instrument in each of the following settings might make you feel.
 - a. At home in your bedroom.
 - b. At a family party.
 - c. In a music group with friends.
 - d. On a big stage in front of a large audience.
2. Now, decide which setting is most appealing to you - which performance venue makes you feel the best?
3. Write a plan for your performance. Record all of the details: location, wardrobe, special effects, decoration, etc. This is your show!
4. Draw a picture of your performance - remember that you and your instrument are the stars.
5. Reflect. Imagine you have just completed the performance you planned. Write a diary entry reflecting on the experience. Explain your thoughts and evaluate the imaginary experience.

Bonus: Set some goals. Maybe performing live is one of your goals, and maybe it isn't. Whatever your goal may be, make it SMART.

Write down your goal using this format:

S - Specific (include lots of detail.)

M - Measurable (how will you know you've made it?)

A - Achievable (don't make it impossible!)

R - Rewarding (you'll feel good when it is done!)

T - Time-Based (when will you achieve it?)

Great job, now you have some creative and realistic plans ready to go so that you can achieve your goals!

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: Wax Museum

Educational Standards

UK Standards:

Produce stories, scripts, poetry and other imaginative writing.

Give short speeches and presentations, expressing their own ideas and keeping to the point.

Common Core

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.4

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

After exploring the Alternative Girls exhibit, go back to have a closer look at the timeline. Choose a girl from the timeline who you find inspirational. Now, get ready to portray her in your own “wax museum” exhibit.

1. Choose a girl from the timeline.
2. Research to learn more about her story.
3. As a wax figure, you will need to look like her: put together a costume and some props to help you complete the look.
4. Write a script - when someone pushes the button at your exhibit, you will tell the story of the Alternative Girl you are portraying. You are the historian and the actor here!
5. For the most fun and learning, get together with classmates or friends to host a Wax Museum featuring many different female music artists.