

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Girl Power!

1. Two groups of women are credited with coming up with the phrase 'girl power!', and making it popular. What did these women have in common?
  - They published magazines and were fighting for women's rights.
  - They were in musical bands that promoted women's rights and women's friendship.
  - They both had TV shows—one about bikinis, and the other on spicy cooking.
2. The editors of the Oxford English Dictionary are always considering whether to add new words to the dictionary. Recently, they added *anti-vaxxer* and *social distance*. In the year 2001, they added *girl power*. What does that tell you about how common the phrase *girl power* was in the 1980s and early 1990s?

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3. We learned in the Shortcut that 32 million girls worldwide are not going to primary school. Why is that? Check all that apply.

- Their families are extremely poor, and need them to stay home to try to survive.
- They'd prefer to relax at home and play with their friends or online.
- Where they live, it's dangerous or forbidden for girls to go to school.
- There aren't enough teachers.

4. Half of all journalists in Australia are women, but only 10% of sports journalists are women. How do you think that affects the sports news that we see, read, and hear?

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Literal: 1, 3, 4 Inferential: 2, 4

## International Day of the Boy Child?



In 2018, a history professor at the University of the West Indies sent a letter to world leaders calling for the establishment of an international boys' day on May 16. Read this excerpt, then think about what you learned in the Shortcut. Do you think that there should be a Boys' Day as well as a Girls' Day? Brainstorm two reasons for your opinion, and provide some evidence for each.

*"On the media, there are regular incidents in which young, misguided boys and teenagers are involved in crime and violence. [...] We need to protect the boy child from the harmful influences of society. There is an urgent need to focus on the home and school in order to save the boy child. The boy child lives in a turbulent social environment that makes him vulnerable to a multitude of negative forces. If a boy child is neglected or fed a diet of hate and violence it is obvious he will develop into a teenager who is misguided and confused. And the next crucial transition into manhood will be even more difficult. [...] Since 2012, the United Nations marks 11 October as the "International Day of the Girl Child". The obvious question is – why have we not dedicated a day that focuses on the Boy Child? We must not allow the continued imbalance of the gender scale. We cannot ignore that without a focus on both the boy child and the girl child, gender equality is not a reality. Too many of our boys are invisible and forgotten. Each boy is important and in this race of life, nobody should be left behind."*

### I think there **SHOULD/SHOULD NOT** be an International Boys Day

Reason One

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Evidence

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Reason Two

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Evidence

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## Girl Power! ANSWER KEY

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*I think that girl power wasn't very common in the 1980s and early 1990s, because before the coronavirus came along, anti-vaxxer and social distancing weren't common either. They've only been around for a year and a half or so. In that time they've become used all over the world, so they probably made it into the dictionary a little faster than some other words.*

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4. Half of all journalists in Australia are women, but only 10% of sports journalists are women. How do you think that affects the sports news that we see, read, and hear?

*In the shortcut it said that only 10% of sports news is about women's sport, so I think that the male journalists aren't reporting on women's sport because it's not something they know as well. So we aren't seeing, reading or hearing about lots of things that are happening in women's sport, which is a shame, because then we aren't getting inspired by those athletes.*