

Name: _____ Date: _____



Girl Power!

1. Two groups of women—one called "Bikini Kill" and the other called "Spice Girls" are credited with coming up with the phrase 'girl power!', and making it popular. What did these women have in common?

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*. Do you think *girl power* was a common phrase in 1980? Why or why not?

3. We learned in the Shortcut that 32 million girls worldwide are not going to primary school. Why is that? There were two main reasons.

4. Half of all journalists in Australia are women, but only 10% of sports journalists are women. What effect do you think that has on the sports news we receive, and how young girls think about sport?

Literal: 1, 3 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 agree that there should be a Boys' Day as well as a Girls' Day? (There's no right answer—just remember to provide reasons and evidence for your opinion.)

"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."

In my opinion,

The first reason I think this is

For example,

Another reason is

For example,

In conclusion,



Girl Power! ANSWER KEY

1. Two groups of women—one called "Bikini Kill" and the other called "Spice Girls" are credited with coming up with the phrase 'girl power!', and making it popular. What did these women have in common?

They were in musical bands. Bikini Kill was in America, and Spice Girls were in Britain. They played different music but they were known for believing in women's rights and the importance of women standing up for each other.

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*. Do you think *girl power* was a common phrase in 1980? Why or why not?

I think that girl power wasn't common at all in 1980, 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.

3. We learned in the Shortcut that 32 million girls worldwide are not going to primary school. Why is that? There were two main reasons.

The first reason was poverty: families were so poor that they kept their kids home from school to get them to work, or help the family in some other way to survive. The second reason is that in some countries like Afghanistan, people don't believe girls should be educated, so they are actually prevented from going.

4. Half of all journalists in Australia are women, but only 10% of sports journalists are women. What effect do you think that has on the sports news we receive, and how young girls think about sport?

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 young girls aren't getting inspired by those athletes.