

Name: _____ Date: _____



Girl Power!

1. Who were "Bikini Kill" and "Spice Girls," and why are they important to the topic of this Shortcut?

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*. If the phrase *girl power* became really popular in the late 1990s, what year do you think it entered the dictionary? Why did you choose that date?

3. What are some of the main reasons that millions of girls worldwide are not going to primary and high school?

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 attitudes about women in sport? Why do you think that?

Literal: 1, 3 Inferential: 2, 4

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Girl Power! ANSWER KEY

1. Who were "Bikini Kill" and "Spice Girls," and why are they important to the topic of this Shortcut?

They were all-girl 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. Bikini Kill started the phrase "girl power" and Spice Girls made it so popular it became part of the English language.

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*. If the phrase *girl power* became really popular in the late 1990s, what year do you think it entered the dictionary? Why did you choose that date?

Anti-vaxxer and social distance both became really popular in the coronavirus epidemic, so about a year and a half ago. I think it could have taken a little longer for girl power to go from starting being popular to getting into the dictionary, because it wasn't a global pandemic, so I'd guess about 2000 or 2001.

3. What are some of the main reasons that millions of girls worldwide are not going to primary and high school?

Poverty is a big reason: families that are extremely poor often don't send their kids to school because they need help scraping together a living. In some countries like Afghanistan, the people in power don't want girls in school. And for teenagers, there are some places where girls are expected to get married and have babies, so no one sees the value in educating them. They think that their only job is to take care of the house.

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 attitudes about women in sport? Why do you think that?

We heard on the Shortcut that only 10% of sports news is about women's sport, even though women make up about half of athletes. I think that sends the message that women's sport isn't as important or good, because it's not being given the same attention. And it might discourage girls from playing sport at a high level.

Literal: 1, 3 Inferential: 2, 4