	Date:	KIDS SHORTCUTS
		GIRL POU
	Girl Power!	
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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, and use strong persuasive language.)

"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."

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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