



Introductory Lesson Plans for Teachers Grades 3-6

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Focus: Breaking Boundaries

The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future supports educators and students in the quest to meet state and national standards in education. These introductory lesson plans are designed to provide pre-visit, in-house, and post-visit activities for students, and they may be duplicated for classroom use. All lesson plans are interdisciplinary in nature and are intended to apply to all subject areas. Please be sure to visit the museum's website at <http://www.thewomensmuseum.org> for additional information on our lesson plans.

TEKS Standards Addressed:

- Applying critical thinking skills
- Writing for a variety of purposes
- Reading and comprehending a variety of texts
- Responding to readings and ideas
- Supporting responses by referring to relevant aspects of text and own experiences
- Distinguishing between opinion and fact
- Gathering important information using resources and references
- Identifying the mathematics in everyday situations

Welcome to The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future! Associated with the Smithsonian Institution, we are the first national history museum dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of American women. Our mission is to educate, enrich, and inspire all visitors by celebrating women's history and providing a public forum for the communication of women's contributions to society.

Throughout history, women athletes have done amazing things. Some have had to deal with illnesses and injuries, just as many men have. Many women, however, also had to overcome discrimination in their sports careers. For a long time, women had fewer opportunities to participate in organized sports activities. For instance, at various times women were not allowed to run in marathons, compete in Little League, or play on football teams.

Finally in 1972, Title IX was issued. This groundbreaking legislation made it against the law for schools to discriminate against women in sports. According to Title IX, women should be allowed the same opportunities to participate in sports as men, and they should also receive equivalent funding and support from the school. Since then, the number of girls participating in high school athletics alone has grown from just under 300,000 to over 2.5 million!



Breaking Boundaries: Before Your Visit...

??? Did You Know ???

- WNBA star Lisa Leslie once scored over 100 points in the first HALF of a high school basketball game.
- Janet Guthrie, the first woman to race in the Indianapolis 500, finished in 9th place, despite racing with a broken wrist.
- Babe Didrickson Zaharias, a famous golf player, also won three Olympic medals in track-and-field.
- Figure skater Tara Lipinski, at the age of 15, was the youngest person ever to win an individual gold medal in the history of the Winter Olympics.
- Track-and-field star Wilma Rudolph, who suffered from polio as a young child, was once told that she would never be able to walk.

Fact or Opinion?

A fact is something that actually exists- it can be proven to be true. An opinion is a belief- it is a personal view. Sometimes in sports, facts and opinions can get mixed up. Read the statements below and circle the ones that are facts.

Mia Hamm is the leading scorer in international soccer history.

Marion Jones is the world's greatest living track-and-field athlete.

Mae Jemison was the first African-American woman to go into space.

Janet Guthrie was the first woman to race at the Indianapolis 500.

Chamique Holdsclaw was the best basketball player ever to play at the University of Tennessee.

Michelle Kwan is an amazing figure skater.

BRAINSTORM

Divide a piece of paper into two columns. On one side, write down at least 5 sports that you think boys usually play. On the other side, write down at least 5 sports that you think girls usually play.

Get in groups of 4-5 students. Compare your lists with each other. Are the lists similar, or are they different?

Look at your group's lists of "Boys" sports. Do you think girls can play these sports? Why or why not?

Now look at your lists of "Girls" sports. Do you think boys can play these sports? Why or why not?

Breaking Boundaries: During Your Visit...

Women have achieved more in the field of sports than many realize. Using the sports cards, find one woman who stands out in each of the following sports. Write her name in the space provided. Choose one of her achievements that you think is important. Why is it so important?

Sport	Name	Important Achievement	Why was this important?
<i>Auto Racing</i>			
<i>Basketball</i>			
<i>Swimming</i>			
<i>Baseball</i>			
<i>Soccer</i>			

Breaking Boundaries: After Your Visit...

Discussion Questions

Should boys and girls be allowed to play on the same sports teams? Why or why not?

Are coaches and parents harder on boys in sports than they are on girls? Do you think this is right?

Which is more important to you- winning or having fun?

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Pretend you are a newspaper reporter and research a female athlete to find out about her life and achievements. Write a news article about a significant event in her sports career. You can use one of the women you learned about at The Women's Museum, or you can select your own.

Need help? Here are some suggestions:

Cynthia Cooper- WNBA's first MVP who helped lead the Houston Comets to 3 Championships.

Gertrude Ederle- The first woman to swim across the English Channel.

Althea Gibson- The first African-American woman to compete in and win at Wimbledon.

Jackie Mitchell- Professional baseball player who struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Babe Didrickson Zaharias- Professional golfer who also won Olympic medals in track-and-field.

Math Challenge

See if you can answer the following questions! Use another sheet of paper to show your work, if necessary.

In 1999, Sarah Fisher became the youngest driver ever to compete in the Indy Racing League (IRL). If she was born in 1980, how old was she when she started racing in the IRL?

Soccer player Michelle Akers scored 105 goals over her 15-year career. How many goals per year did she average?

Susan Butcher won the Iditarod dogsled race three times in a row! During the years that she was racing, she would train up to 16 hours a day, 7 days a week. How many hours did she train in one week?

Joanne Winter, an ace pitcher for the Racine Belles in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, set a pitching record with 63 consecutive scoreless innings. If a game is 9 innings, how many games did she pitch without letting the other team score?
