

Breaking Boundaries

Before visiting the Museum

Vocabulary

Competition: striving against another person for a common goal.

Precedent:
A landmark decision or event that begins a new way of thinking.

Parameter: Boundary, a set of limitations.

Rabble-rouser: Person who stirs up controversy.

Emulate: To follow in the footsteps of, or to copy someone that you respect and admire.

Legislation: A law created by the legislature or other governing body.

Discrimination: To judge someone based on a category instead of merit.

Equivalent: To be equal in value or quantity to a similar entity.

Illegal: To be against the law.

Women In Sports?

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 illegal 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!

Questions for Discussion:

1. Should boys and girls be allowed to play on the same sports teams?
2. Are coaches and parents harder on boys in sports than they are on girls?
3. Which is more important to you; winning or having fun?

The Daily Reporter

As you take a tour of the museum, you will notice many women athletes who have achieved great things despite the many obstacles placed before them. As you are walking through the exhibits, make notes of the athletes that inspire you the most.

Once you have finished your tour, 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.

Be sure that in your article you discuss the accomplishments of the athlete as well as her path to success. What else can you find out about her? Does she have a family? What kind of education did she get? Find out as much as you can so that your article will be very interesting.

At the Museum

Math Challenge

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?

Who's on first....

In the columns below list five sports that you think boys play and five sports that you think girls play. Get with a group of 3 or 4 students and compare lists. Do your lists all look similar? Talk about why you put the sports in the column that you did.

Boys Sports	Girls Sports

Personal Hall of Fame

Every professional sport and many amateur sports have a Hall of Fame. This is an area where the great accomplishments of athletes is put on display.

This is your chance to create a hall of fame for your class. Write down your greatest athletic achievement. Did you hit a homerun during a softball game or maybe you are the ping-pong champion on your block. Write down what the achievement was and how it made you feel.

Your teacher can help you and your classmates put up the stories around the classroom along with any pictures or items you would like to display with your story.



After the Museum

Design your own sport

While playing soccer or basketball is really fun, sometimes it is nice to play something completely different.

Get with a group of 3 or 4 people and design a game for your class to play. Your game should have very clear rules and should be able to be played with the equipment that your teacher provides. Once your game is designed, present it to the class and tell them why you think your game would be a lot of fun to play.

Once all the groups have presented their games, the class can vote on which game everyone thinks would be the most fun to play!