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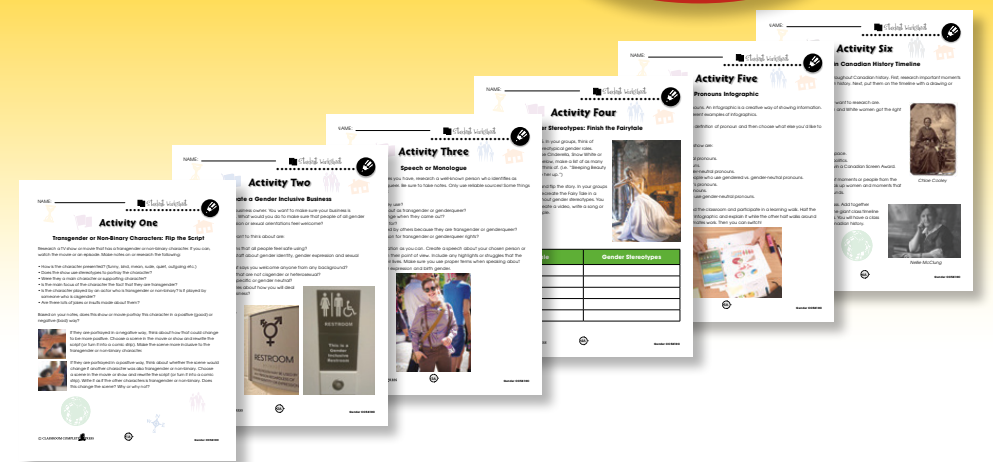
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What is Gender?

1. Finish each sentence with a word from the list.

gender expression androgynous masculine
gender identity spectrum feminine

- Your _____ is your own sense of being a boy, girl or anything in between.
- The clothes you wear, how you do your hair and how you walk are examples of your _____.
- Gender isn't set in stone. A person's gender identity can change throughout their life, meaning it exists on a _____.
- Some people believe that boys should act in a _____ way and girls should act in a _____ way.
- People who express themselves in a way that is not masculine or feminine can be described as _____.

2. Draw a line between the adjective on the left and the gender that it is stereotypically associated with.

- | | | | |
|---|------------|------|---|
| 1 | Strong | | |
| 2 | Caring | Girl | A |
| 3 | Emotional | Boy | B |
| 4 | Aggressive | | |

3. A boy gets bullied by his classmates because he prefers to have long hair and wear tight clothing. Does the way he chooses to express himself make him less of a boy? Why or why not?



What is Gender?

Gender refers to how people view what it means to be a boy or girl. The way people think of gender can depend on their own experiences. Many people think that 'boy' and 'girl' (or man and woman) are the only genders. However, there are other ways to identify other than boy and girl.

Gender identity is how we feel about our own gender. This is a personal feeling of being a boy or a girl or neither or both. Gender identity can be seen as a **spectrum**. Think of it with 'girl' on one side and 'boy' on the other side. A person might feel more like a boy or more like a girl. They may also feel that they aren't a boy or a girl. They might feel like they are somewhere in between being a boy and a girl.



A person's gender identity is not decided when they are born. A person might live their life as a boy and then realize they actually identify as a girl. Some people live their lives as a gender that they don't identify with. This might be because of pressures from people in their community. This can be very difficult for that person. They may not feel like they are being their true selves. Nobody can tell someone else what their gender identity is. It is a very personal feeling!

1. Nabila has lived her life as a girl. For a long time, she didn't really think about her gender. But now that she's in grade 6, she's feeling a lot of pressure to fit into a certain gender 'category'. She mostly identifies with being a girl, but there is a part of her that identifies with being a boy. On the diagram below, use an arrow to show where you think Nabila would place herself on the gender spectrum.



What is Gender?

1. What is gender identity? What is gender expression? Explain the difference between them.

2. Inaya identifies as a girl but has short hair and wears baggy clothing and hats. The kids in her class bully her for the way she chooses to dress. As Inaya's friend, what would you explain to the bullies about her choice of expression?

3. Put a checkmark next to the answer that is most correct.

a) Which one is NOT a form of gender expression?

- A Clothing
- B Haircut
- C Who a person is attracted to.
- D Manners

b) How must someone who identifies as a girl express herself?

- A In a feminine way.
- B In a masculine way.
- C In an androgynous or gender-neutral way.
- D Any way she wishes.

c) A person's gender expression must be decided:

- A by their parents at birth.
- B never—it can change throughout their life.
- C during puberty.
- D before their first romantic relationship.



What is Gender?

4. How do you think stereotypes of a certain group can be harmful to members of that group?

5. What do you think the world would be like without stereotypes?



Graphic Organizer

6. Use the graphic organizer on page 12 to identify gender stereotypes.

Think of ways that people think boys and girls should be. These are stereotypes. Under the "boy" side, list qualities that people see as boyish or masculine. Under the "girl" side, list qualities that people think are girlish or feminine. Under the "androgynous/gender-neutral" section, list qualities that are neither or both masculine and feminine. Make sure you include both physical and emotional things. Write down as many examples as you can. Use the Internet to help you if you run out of ideas.



Comparing 'Boy' vs. 'Girl' Magazines

Get into groups of 4 or 5. Using magazines, cut out and glue pictures of advertisements for boys products on a piece of paper with the title "Boy Products". Do the same with advertisements for girls products on a piece of paper with the title "Girl Products".

When you have completed your collage, take a moment to look at each one. In your groups, talk about what you notice. One group member should write down key points.

As a class, share what you noticed!

Some points to discuss might be:

- Do you see boys in ads for girl's products or girls in ads for boy's products?
- Who looks more active or athletic in the advertisements: boys or girls?
- Do you think these advertisements are true for what all boys and all girls want?
- Do you think the products being advertised are representative of what all girls or boys want?
- Do these ads make you feel like you are supposed to buy certain things because of your gender?
- Would any of you rather buy something that is advertised for the opposite gender?
- How do you think these stereotypes of what boys and girls want can be harmful to children who see the magazines?

Now, on your own, make your own magazine or advertisement that doesn't use stereotypes. It should show boys and girls using a variety of different things. Be as creative as you can!



Crossword Puzzle!

Word List

androgynous
cisgender
coming out
expression
identity
non-binary
oppressed
orientation

pronoun
roles
stereotype
they
transgender
transitioning
Two-Spirit

Across

1. A term that is used by some Indigenous nations to describe people within their community that are thought of as 'third gender'.
5. When a certain group of people are treated unfairly by the people in control.
9. Making changes to yourself to feel more like your gender identity.
10. Sexual _____ is who we are romantically attracted to.
12. A person whose gender identity matches their assigned sex.
14. An unfair belief about a certain group of people.

Down

2. Gender _____ are behaviors that are seen as appropriate or acceptable for certain genders.
3. When a person decides to tell others about their sexual orientation or gender identity.
4. A term used to describe people who do not identify as a man or a woman.
6. Gender _____ is the way a person chooses to express their gender.
7. A gender expression that isn't feminine or masculine; it is somewhere in the middle of the spectrum.
8. A word that replaces a noun like a person's name, for example.
11. A person whose gender identity does not match their assigned sex.
13. Gender _____ is our personal feeling of being a boy or a girl or something in between.
15. A common gender neutral pronoun.



Comprehension Quiz

Part A

Circle **TRUE** if the statement is TRUE or **FALSE** if it is FALSE.

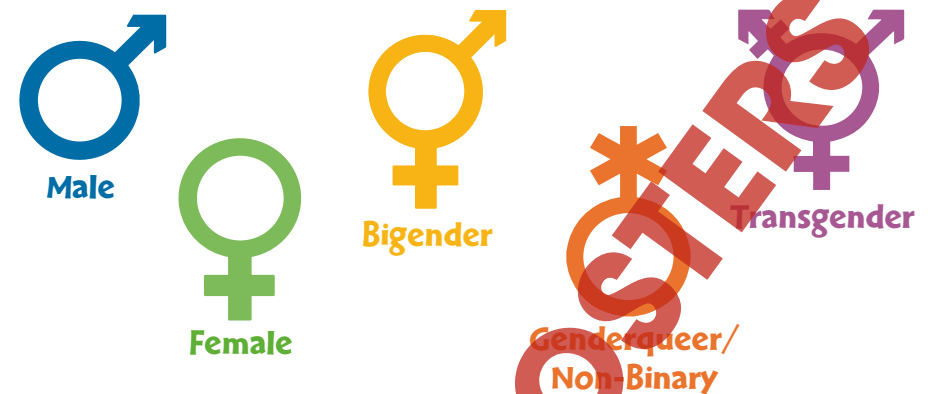
1. A person can feel masculine in some ways and feminine in others.
TRUE **FALSE**
2. The gender that you were assigned at birth is the same as your gender identity.
TRUE **FALSE**
3. A person's sexual orientation depends on their gender.
TRUE **FALSE**
4. There are more ways to identify than just boy and girl or man and woman.
TRUE **FALSE**
5. The term Two-Spirit can be used by anyone to describe themselves.
TRUE **FALSE**

Part B

2. Put a checkmark next to all the words that have to do with gender identity.

- A Cisgender
- B Gay
- C Transgender
- D Gender Non-Binary
- E Heterosexual

Gender Spectrum



ASSIGNED SEX

MALE **INTERSEX** **FEMALE**

anatomy, chromosomes, hormones

GENDER IDENTITY

MAN **THIRD GENDER** **WOMAN**

internal sense of self

GENDER EXPRESSION

MASCULINE **ANDROGYNOUS** **FEMININE**

communication of gender



What is Gender?

1. What is gender identity? What is gender expression? Explain the difference between them.

2. Inaya identifies as a girl but has short hair and wears baggy clothing and hats. The kids in her class bully her for the way she chooses to dress. As Inaya's friend, what would you explain to the bullies about her choice of expression?

3. Put a checkmark next to the answer that is most correct.

a) Which one is NOT a form of gender expression?

- A Clothing
- B Haircut
- C Who a person is attracted to.
- D Mannerisms

b) How must someone who identifies as a girl express herself?

- A In a feminine way.
- B In a masculine way.
- C In an androgynous or gender-neutral way.
- D Any way she wishes.

c) A person's gender expression must be decided:

- A by their parents at birth.
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1.

Gender identity is an individual's internal sense of being a boy or a girl (or anything in between). Gender expression refers to the way an individual chooses to outwardly express their gender identity on a spectrum from masculine to feminine (or anything in between).

2.

Answers will vary, but may include: Explain that gender expression is a personal choice that it does not always need to align with one's gender identity. How Inaya expresses her gender is nothing to make fun of even if it is at the more stereotypically 'masculine' end of the spectrum.

3.

- a) C
- b) D
- c) B



EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY



What is Gender?

Gender refers to how people view what it means to be a boy or girl. The way people think of gender can depend on their own experiences. Many people think that 'boy' and 'girl' (or man and woman) are the only genders. However, there are other ways to identify other than boy and girl.

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.....
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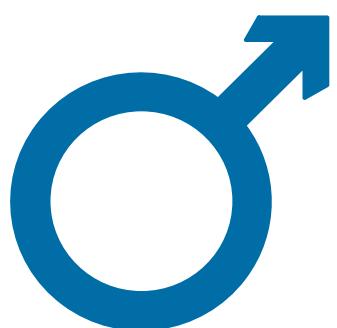
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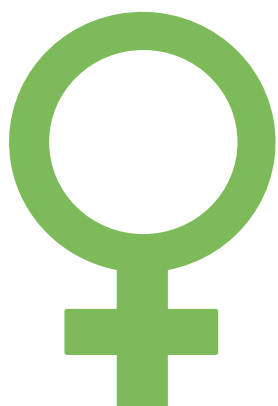
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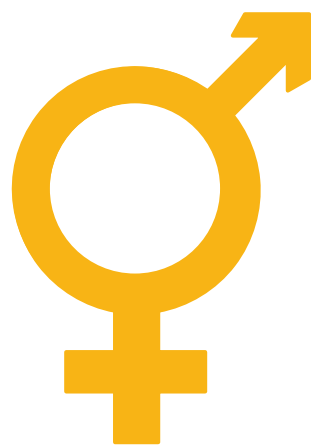
Gender Spectrum



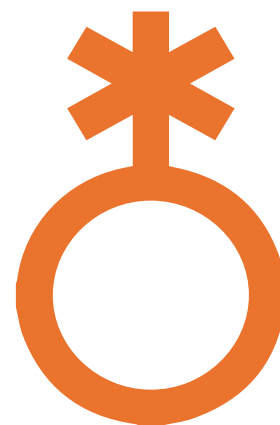
Male



Female



Bigender



Genderqueer/
Non-Binary



Transgender

ASSIGNED SEX

MALE

INTERSEX

FEMALE

anatomy, chromosomes, hormones

GENDER IDENTITY

MAN

THIRD GENDER

WOMAN

internal sense of self

GENDER EXPRESSION

MASCULINE

ANDROGYNOUS

FEMININE

communication of gender