

**What was it like to
be a girl **100**
years ago?**

Nowadays, girls can be anything they want to be.

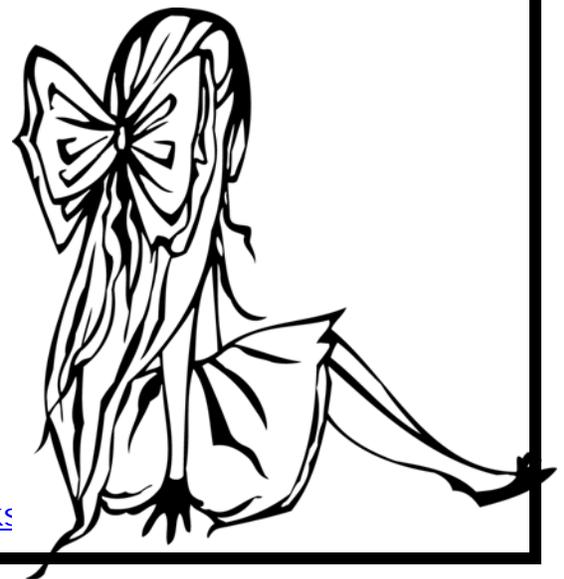
They have the same opportunities for education and careers as boys have, and are generally treated equally in all areas of life. But things didn't used to be that way.

A hundred years ago, girls were kept home from school to help with cleaning, cooking and farming. Because they didn't go to school, they weren't exposed to very much history, literature, math or science. Even if they wanted to

learn, all the work they had to do left little time for reading or studying. Because of their scant education, most girls back then couldn't read or write.

Girls a hundred years ago also had a lot fewer toys available to them than kids do today. Girls often played with paper dolls. They would draw and cut out dresses and accessories for their dolls, and fasten the clothes to the dolls with paper tabs.

Girls a hundred years ago were not allowed to wear jeans. They also didn't wash their hair very often. It was a lot of work to take a bath. There was no indoor plumbing or running water, so tubs had to be filled by hand. Everything in general was much harder, and required much more effort than doing basic domestic things does today.



1. Think about what life was like for girls one hundred years ago. Then describe how things are different for girls today. Include key points from the text.

2. Imagine you could go back in time and spend a week in the world the way it was one hundred years ago. What do you think you might like about life back then? What do you think you would not like?
