Week 3: Gender

Activity 1: Worksheet

Activity 2: Stereotypes and Gender Roles

Discussion:

1. Gender
   1. What is gender?
      1. Gender is a cultural construct that makes biological and physical differences into socially meaningful categories
   2. Gender Roles
      1. The cultural expectations of men and women in a particular society; a role or behavior learned by a person as appropriate to their gender, determined by their culture.
2. What it means for gender to be a Cultural Construct
   1. Gender characteristics are the result of historical, economic, and political forces operating within each society.
3. Should Gender Roles Define You?
   1. Gender Roles are constraining they put limitations on what you are “allowed” to do
   2. Don’t let gender stop you from doing something you enjoy

Independent Practice:

* Activity 1: Worksheet Activity
  + This is a short individual activity that is to be done before starting the lesson for the day.
  + Each student will be given a worksheet with pictures of five different people on it.
  + The students will be asked to look at the photos and using the provided list of jobs decide which person has what job.
  + Once everyone has filled in the sheets they will be asked to flip them over and keep them close by as they will need them later in the lesson
  + After we learn about gender and gender roles, we will get to the “Can You Guess Their Jobs?’ slide and students will be asked to get their sheet and flip it over again.
  + The next five slides will be used to reveal the actual jobs of each of the 5 people.
  + This time will be used to start a discussion about how gender roles are constrictive and put limitations on what we think people can do, and how if we aren’t aware they may keep us from trying or doing things we might really enjoy!
* Activity 2: Game
  + Each group is given the 2 stacks of flash cards (boy jobs and girl jobs)
  + The group leader’s job is to make sure that for the first few rounds the boys draw from the girl jobs stack, and the girls draw from the boy jobs stack.
  + The students will take turn drawing a job, and then without looking at it holding it up to their forehead so that the rest of their clan mates can see the job
  + Then they will endeavor to guess what job they have drawn, aided by the hits given by their clan mates.
  + They can give any hint they want short of just naming the job title.

Activity Supplies:

* Activity 1: Worksheet Activity
  + A worksheet for each kid
  + Pencils/Pens
* Activity 2: Game
  + Job Flash Cards

Review:

What is a gender role?

What are two examples of gender roles in your culture? Try to think of examples we did not cover in class.

Can we tell what people like, how smart they are, or what job they have based on their gender?

Does gender limit what you can do?

Power Point Script

**Gender**

How is everyone doing today? Excited for the weekend?

Before we jump into the power point today I am going to be passing out a worksheet to you, so grab a pencil if you have one, if not I’m sure we have some extra you can use.

When you get the sheet you’ll see that on it are 5 photos of different people, and then in the bottom right hand corner are five blanks and a list with a bunch of different jobs. I know there are more jobs than pictures, but that is just so we have lots of options to pick from. I want each of you to take a minute and write in the blanks which of those jobs you think the people in the pictures have. Keep that in front of you, we are going to use them in a little bit.

The theme of our lesson today is … GENDER, and I have a question for you all …

**Can Boys Wear Dresses?**

Can boys wear dresses?

So show of hands who thought it was weird when they saw that I was wearing a dress today?

Can someone tell me why they think it is weird?

(Because you are a boy/guy/dude and they don’t wear dresses girls do)

That’s a great guess why do you think that is?

(gender roles… leave open ended cover it with next slide)

**Gender Roles**

So what is gender? And what does it have to do with anthropology?

Gender Role – The cultural expectations of boys and girls, or men and women in a particular society; a role or behavior learned by someone and generally viewed as appropriate.

Gender Roles set expectations for things like: what kinds of clothes a boy can wear

We already talked about how it is weird seeing me standing up here wearing a dress. This is because I am breaking a cultural expectation. In America we have the idea that girls wear dresses and boys do not!

Can anyone think of a “guy” only piece of clothing that would be weird to see a girl wear?

what types of jobs women usually have?

how long a mans hair should be?

or what colors a girl should have as her favorite?  
  
Can anyone give me an example of a boy color? How about a girl color?

**Can you guess their Jobs**

So now that we know about gender roles, and that culture plays a big part in what sorts of jobs you think a girl or a boy might have lets get the worksheets you filled in earlier and shed some light on who these people are and what jobs they have, and see how good y’all were with guessing!

Marissa Mayer – Ceo of Yahoo

Fran S. – Nurse

Laura M. – Software Engineer

Reggie Love – Personal Assistant to the president of the united states

Alli M. – Firefighter

**Gender in other Cutltures**

**Madagascar**

Clothing in Madagascar is one of the many differences in their culture and ours. And just like in our culture, there are different rules about what is deemed appropriate dress for men and women.

In rural towns in northern madagascar, you will find that a lot of older men and women wear the same sort of outfit called Lamba. It is two pieces and involves a skirt and a loose shirt and most of the time a hat.  
  
Younger men and men in the city generally do not wear this style of clothing any more except in cultural ceremonies. Instead their dress is usually longer pants and a loose shirt.  
  
Younger women and women in the cities are still generally seen wearing colorful dresses and skirts.  
  
While there are no laws dictating how they should dress they have a culture that is much more modest than ours so you will rarely see people wearing shorts or very tight clothing.

**United Arab Emirates**

People in the United Arab Emirates wear different kinds of clothing than you would typically see someone here wear. And what is acceptable for a men to wear is very different than what is acceptable for women. So their culture is a lot more restrictive towards women than men when it comes to the kinds of clothing allowed to be worn. In some cases it is actually illegal to wear the wrong kind of clothing.

**Rwanda**

Rwanda these days is often described as being the leading country for women in power. In fact 64% of their parliament is made up of women. In the United States we have Congress instead of parliament, and only 19% of our House of Representatives are women. For a long time in Rwanda this was not the case though, women in Rwanda 30 years ago were rarely given an education, few had jobs, and they were expected to cook and clean and take care of the house while the man worked. There was not a lot of equality, and gender roles were very different for men and women.

So what changed? Well they had a war, and unfortunately a lot of the men who lived in Rwanda died, but after the war they still needed to run the country and they had a lot more women than men, so overnight gender roles were rewritten. Just think what it might be like if tomorrow you woke up and all boys were told they now had to wear dresses to school every day. It might take some time to get used to it right?   
  
That is what is happening in Rwanda still to this day. It has taken a lot of time but those gender roles are changing and men and women are a lot more equal.

**Gender Doesn’t Limit You**

Even in our culture, gender roles play a part. You all saw this when you could tell me what are stereotypical girl, colors or boy colors, and because it is weird that I am wearing a dress.

They say its okay to wear this, or like that, or do this job…

But does that mean you have to let gender and stereotypes define you, or what you think of people!   
  
We saw this when we made guesses about what peoples jobs were just by what their gender was and how they looked. But really any one of those people could have had any of those jobs, everyone can be a nurse or teacher, firefighter or engineer regardless if they are a boy or girl.

**Guessing Game**

So now we are going to play a guessing game.

Each clan will get cards with jobs on them. Taking turns you will draw a car, and without looking at the job hold it up to your forehead. Your goal is to guess the job you drew. Your clan members can help you by telling you things about the job, without telling you the name of the job itself.

**Gender in the 4 fields of anthropology**

All 4 fields of anthropology use gender and gender roles to help them learn about and understand different people.

Cultural – We have spent a lot of time talking about cultural anthropology in the past few weeks do the other example.

Linguistic – I’ve seen that all around the classroom and the school there are Spanish words posted things like your door. Spanish is just one of the many languages in the world that has gendered nouns, masculine and feminine words. A linguistic anthropologist might be interested in doing a study of which words are given the genders they are and if there are any trends or relationships with the culture of the people who speak that language. Investigate stereotypes like “women talk a lot”

Archaeology/Physical – So if you remember from last week we learned that archaeologists excavate for artifacts and try to learn about people of the past. One of the things that they occasionally find are skeletons. So lots of times an archaeologist will work with a physical anthropologist, they are the ones who study how humans change and adapt, and the physical anthropologist can tell you a lot of things from a skeleton.