

## Bring on the World

### Day 3 Morning session: Girls, boys and playtime

#### Activity 1: Girls on the ball

**Time required: 30 mins**

#### **You will need**

A copy of the **Girls on the ball worksheet** for each pair of pupils (below)

A copy of the **original photo** (Eritrean girls with ball) to refer to yourself (below)

#### **Aim**

To highlight the growing profile of women's and girls' football around the world.

To examine attitudes to gender stereotyping in sports and recreation.

To express and justify opinions.

#### **What to do**

Give pupils the **Girls on the ball worksheet** (below). As a starter activity, they play Spot the Ball, which is on this worksheet or the teacher projects the photo from the worksheet onto the whiteboard and selects a few pupils to point out where they think the ball is.

Read the history of women's football together. Encourage pupils to underline words that they are unsure about and discuss the meaning of these words as a class.

Put pupils into small groups (ideally mixed boys and girls) and give them ten minutes to discuss the questions at the bottom of the sheet. As a class, discuss each of the questions in turn during plenary feedback, encouraging pupils to give reasons for their answers.

# Girls on the ball

Stefan Boness/Panos Pictures



## Spot the ball

These schoolgirls are playing football in the playground of the Islamic Alnahda Elementary School. The school is in the city of Keren in the country of Eritrea in Africa. Playing football is part of their time-tabled lessons.



The ball has been removed from the picture. Can you work out where the ball was? Mark the spot with a cross.

[Teachers: see page 5]

## A history of women's soccer

The first known records of the game are Chinese frescoes of women playing football at the time of the Donghan Dynasty (AD 25-220). It was later banned in China but in the 1920s football began creeping into China's school curriculum for girls. Fittingly, the first Women's World Cup was held in China in 1991.

As Chinese girls were beginning to play the game in the 1920s, girls in England were being told by the FA Council that football was "quite unsuitable for females". For half a century the game was played almost as an 'underground' sport. Finally in the 1970s women's football began to be recognised and supported.


Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Germany began to build up women's teams. The United States of America, a newcomer in the women's game, has won the Women's World Cup twice. Other women's teams that have done well include Brazil, Nigeria and Japan. The England Women's team have set themselves the target of winning the Women's World Cup in 2007.

[Source: [http://www.footballculture.net/insider/trivia\\_women.html](http://www.footballculture.net/insider/trivia_women.html)]



Chris Stowers / Panos Pictures

Football practice at a school in China.

 Do girls in your school play football? Is there a team for girls? Do girls and boys play together? Do you think women's football will become as popular as men's football?

 Imagine it is 2007 and the Women's World Cup is underway. Write a newspaper article on the event or draw a poster to advertise it.

... 53,000 attended a women's match at Everton FC's Goodison Park on Boxing Day in 1920 ...

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Eritrean girls with ball

