



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Time Commitment

30-45 minutes

Age Range

3rd grade and up

Learning Targets

- Identify how to use time, talent and treasure to empower and celebrate women in your community and around the country
- Collaborate with peers to determine how to help



Photo Credit: Malala Fund - <https://malala.org/about>

Malala Yousafzai was born in Pakistan in 1997. Her father was a teacher and ran a girls' school in her village in Swat Valley. In 2008, due to the political climate in her country, many things were banned like television and playing music. Girls were also no longer allowed to go to school. Through many hardships and trials, Malala and her family moved to her a home in the U.K. She made a vow to fight until every girl could go to school. Malala and her father started the Malala Fund in 2013, a charity dedicated to giving every girl an opportunity to achieve a future she chooses and working for a world where every girl can learn and lead. Because of her incredible work, she received a Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 and became the youngest-ever Nobel laureate.

Malala continues her work to this day to ensure that all girls receive 12 years of free, safe, and quality education in regions where a majority of girls miss out. Did you know that Brazil is the world's eighth largest economy, but 1.5 million girls are still out of school? 47% of Ethiopian girls who start grade one do not make it to grade five. In Pakistan, more than 22 million children are out of school – the majority of them are girls.

The Malala Fund exists because they believe that every child has a right to education. All girls – regardless of income level, social status, race or cultural background – have a right to learn on equal terms with boys including access to quality teachers, curriculums and learning materials. Educated women provide vital skills and knowledge to the workforce, driving innovation. Studies have even found significantly less people die from droughts and floods in countries that invest in girls' education than in countries that don't.

Get Inspired

There are many nonprofits around the world that are working hard to empower women and celebrate the amazing achievements women and girls around the world are accomplishing, just like the Malala Fund. A few include:

Girls Who Code

Girls Who Code's mission is to inspire, educate, and equip girls with computer skills so they can pursue 21st century opportunities. In 1995, 37% of computer scientists were women. Today, that number is even lower at 24%. Unless we empower girls to learn, this number will continue to decline. That's why Girls Who Code offers clubs, college and career programs and summer programs to help young women change the tech landscape.

Bright Pink

For 18 years, Bright Pink has helped save the lives of countless young women by developing, accelerating, and expanding the impact of life-saving breast and ovarian health interventions. They have guided 1.8 million women to assess their risk and take proactive steps, educated 11,000+ women through in-person workshops and trained 20,000 women's health providers to deliver better care for their at risk patients.

Girls Inc.

Girls Inc. inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. They are the longest-running girls' leadership organization. Through the Girls Inc. experience, their trained staff and volunteers provide mentorship, safe spaces, and programming that address the unique challenges girls face and are proven to help girls succeed.

Solar Sister

Solar Sister invests in women's clean energy businesses in off-grid communities in Africa by recruiting, training and supporting women entrepreneurs to build businesses and bring clean energy to their communities. So far, they have reached 4.3 million people across Africa with solar energy and clean cookstoves through more than 10,000 local women entrepreneurs. Lack of access to power locks people into poverty and affects all areas of life. Solar Sisters is working hard to put clean power in the hands of the people by creating a women-led movement for a brighter future.

Girl Effect

Girl Effect improves girls' health, education, and livelihoods across Africa and Asia by connecting them to life-changing information and resources. They are an innovative nonprofit working with and for girls to break down the barriers they face to help redefine what is deemed possible 'for a girl'. So far, Girl Effect has impacted over 62 million individuals from Tanzania, South Africa, India, and more!

Women's World Banking

Women's World Banking believes in the security and prosperity for women. For over forty years, they have provided low-income women around the world with the financial tools and confidence they need to participate equally in their societies and economies.

Your Challenge

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated every year on March 8th. It has been celebrated for over a hundred years and belongs to all who care about women's equality. IWD is a call to action and provides a platform to engage with communities, reflect on progress, and commit to positive action.

To celebrate IWD this year, your challenge is to determine how you can take action to make a difference by celebrating women's achievements and supporting women-focused organizations and causes. First, you must decide what need exists that you want to impact. Are there any local organizations in your community who aim to serve women and girls whom you may be able to partner with, not only to celebrate IWD, but to celebrate the equality of women year-round? How will you use your 3Ts (time, talent, and treasure) to make a difference? Are there lawmakers in your town or state who you can write to and ask them for help? Can you and your friends devise a campaign to encourage others to care about this cause and join in your efforts? No idea is too small!

Additional Resources

Helpful Websites:

The Malala Fund: <https://malala.org/>

Girls Who Code: <https://girlswhocode.com/>

Bright Pink: <https://www.brightpink.org/>

Girls Inc: <https://www.girlsinc.org/>

Solar Sister: <https://solarsister.org/>

Girl Effect: <https://www.girleffect.org/>

Women's World Banking: <https://www.womensworldbanking.org/>

International Women's Day: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

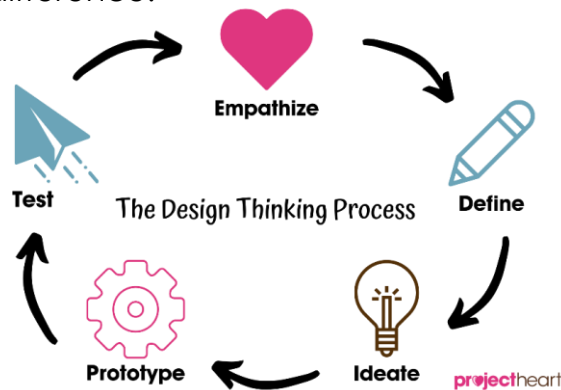
Want to hear more about Malala's story?

Many books have been written about Malala for different students of all ages.

Malala also wrote her own book called *I Am Malala*.

Getting Started

To effectively create change, you need to follow a plan of action. We use the Design Thinking Process to help us better understand the problem we see and walk us through steps to creating a plan to make a difference!



The Design Thinking Process



Empathize

To **empathize** means to understand and share the feelings of another. As it relates to the design thinking process and [Project Heart](#), to empathize specifically means to learn about the audience or group that you wish to impact.



Define

Define means to share your problem statement with others. As it relates to Project Heart, the define stage of design thinking means you've thought about your personal passions and how to apply the 3Ts of your group to make a greater social impact. The define stage helps you clearly state the need or problem so others can understand.



Ideate

To **ideate** means to form an idea, thought or concept. As it relates to the design thinking process, to ideate specifically means to brainstorm ideas based on what you have learned about your target audience and the point of view or problem statement you have defined. Related to Project Heart, your ideas should also incorporate the specific time, talent and/or treasure that you wish to contribute.



Prototype

To **prototype** means to model or create an example. As it relates to Project Heart, to prototype specifically means to plan out in detail one of your impact project ideas.



Test

To **test** means to check the quality, reliability or performance of something. As it relates to the design thinking process, to test specifically means to gain feedback on your prototype from your target population. As it relates to Project Heart, testing means implementing your plan and reflecting on your success and failures.

Activity

Use the Design Thinking Process to determine how you can help. The best answer isn't always the one that already exists!

Tip: To build empathy and understanding, do some research and interview experts in your area (which can include your peers!). Find out what needs exist either in your community or around the globe. Find out who is already helping and learn from them.

When you decide on an idea, remember you can access the Illumination Fund for materials funding or a matching donation to a U.S. based non-profit to bring your idea to life! Just visit: <https://myprojectheart.org/illumination-fund>



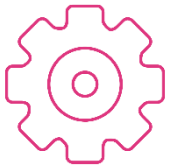
Empathize



Define



Ideate



Prototype



Test

Reflect