Brownie A World of Girls Activity Plan 1  
Hear a Story Award

**Purpose:** When girls have earned this award, they will see that stories hold clues for how to make the world better.

**Planning Guides Link:** Leadership

**Activity Plan Length:** 1.5 hours

**Resources**

- This activity plan has been adapted from the *It’s Your Story—Tell It! A World of Girls Journey*, which can be used for additional information and activities.

- Girl Scout Cadettes who are working on the *It’s Your Story—Tell It! MEdia Journey* can earn their Leadership in Action (LiA) Award by assisting with these activities. Contact your Service Unit Manager to find girls in your area who may be interested in assisting your group. Requirements for the A World of Girls LiA award can be found in the *It’s Your Story—Tell It! A World of Girls and It’s Your Story-Tell It! MEdia adult guides.*

**Activity #1: Games from Girls Around the Globe**

**Journey Connection:** Session 1—Girls Around the World

**Time Allotment:** 15 minutes

**Materials Needed:**

- For Banyoka:
  - Masking tape
  - Obstacles (indoor options include furniture, stacks of boxes or books; outdoor options include cones, jump ropes, large balls)

- For Escargot:
  - Small squares of paper
  - Markers
Masking tape

Steps:
1. Tell the girls that girls all around the world like to play games. Playing games is a way to get to know others and active games are important for staying healthy and fit. By playing games and doing activities from around the world, we get to see what girls in other parts of the world like to do.
2. Play the game Banyoka or Escargot.
   **Banyoka** is an obstacle course game from Africa and means “snake”.
   - To play the game:
     1. Mark “lanes” on the floor with masking tape.
     2. Set up obstacles.
     3. Form two teams with equal numbers of girls.
     4. Each team becomes a “snake.” The girls sit on the floor or ground, one behind the other, with their legs open like scissors and their hands on the shoulders or waist of the girl in front of them.
     5. Each team “slithers” along, moving around or over the obstacles while staying connected. The first team to finish wins!
   **Escargot** is a version of hopscotch that children play in France.
   - To play the game:
     1. Set up a snail pattern on the floor with masking tape.
     2. Game may be played as one large group or in teams of three to four girls.
     3. Have girls decide which foot is their hopping foot and who will go first. Whichever foot a girl chooses is the foot she will hop on for the entire game.
     4. Hop through to the center on one foot. Start with square one.
     5. Hop only once in each square. Do not hop on any lines or a turn is lost. Girls may rest when they reach the center.
     6. Hop back to the beginning, following the same rules.
     7. If a girl hopped in and out successfully, she may choose a square as her “house.” Have her put her initials in the square (write on small squares of papers and tape it in the square). She can use this space to rest and other players must skip over the square.
     8. The game is over when it becomes impossible for anyone to hop to the center. The player with the most squares at the end is the winner.

**Activity #2: Storytelling Detectives**
Journey Connection: Session 2—Girls in Our World
Time Allotment: 20 minutes
Materials Needed:
- Large writing space (poster board, chalkboard, whiteboard)
- Writing utensils

Steps:
1. Tell the girls that on this journey they will be talking about many different stories. Ask the girls to tell you the titles or themes of some of their favorite stories. Spend a minute or two brainstorming a list of favorite stories and write them for everyone to see.
2. Tell the girls that they will be acting out some of their favorite stories by playing the game charades! For a large group of girls, split the girls into teams. For a smaller group, have the girls work together to act out several stories.
3. Give each group about 10 minutes to plan a short charade of a favorite story. Girls can use actions and a few words, if necessary.

4. Have each group perform their short charade, while the other girls try to guess which story they are performing.

**Activity #3: Snack Chat**

Journey Connection: Questions link to multiple sessions of A World of Girls

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

While enjoying a healthy snack of your choice, here are some things to talk about:

- What did the girls in your charade story do?
- Did the girls in your story solve any problems? What was the problem?
- Why did the problem need to be solved and how did they solve it?
- What are your characters like? Do you share any of the same traits?
- What would you have done in a situation like that?

**Activity #4: Traveler’s Suitcase**

Journey Connection: Session 1—Girls Around the World

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

- Wrap a small box with plain paper and cut a slot large enough to fit a small item in the top.

Materials Needed:

- Coloring utensils
- Paper
- Small box
- Tape

Steps:

1. Wrap a small box with plain paper and cut a slot large enough to fit a small item in the top.
2. Tell the girls that the box is the suitcase they are taking with them on their journey around the globe.
3. Give each girl a small piece of paper and have her create a souvenir that shows the places they’ve been and the things they learned during the meeting. Girls can use pictures or words to represent their journey so far.
4. When they have finished their souvenirs, have girls put them into the suitcase.
5. If time allows, have the girls decorate the outside of the box related to traveling, girls and Brownies. Give girls another piece of paper to decorate and tape to the outside of the “suitcase” when completed.
6. Bring the box every time you meet and at the end of each meeting, the girls can add more to the box. After you’ve completed your *A World of Girls* Journey, the girls can open the box and reflect on the places they went and everything they did!

**More to Explore**

- Field Trip Ideas:
  - Go to a historical society or history museum to explore how girls and women have changed the world.
  - Take a walk outside or around the block and have girls identify clues that need a positive change in their community.
• Speaker Ideas:
  o Invite someone that you know from a different country to talk about being a girl in that culture.
  o Invite a local librarian, author or someone else familiar with children’s stories to talk to the girls about finding clues within stories.

**Customize It!** If your group wants to expand work on this award or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to complete this award, including: Completing the activities as listed in the *A World of Girls Journey*, completing this activity plan, attending a council-sponsored event or customizing activities. Pick the one(s) that work best for your group. Girls will know they have earned the Hear a Story Award if:
  • They know they belong to a world of girls just like them
  • They can find clues in a story
  • They can identify ways to make change in the world

Girls can continue their A World of Girls Journey by earning the remaining awards: Change a Story Award, Tell a Story Award and Better World for Girls! Award.

**Family Follow-up Email**
Use the email below as a template to let families know what you did at the meeting today. Feel free to add additional information, including:
  • When and where you will be meeting next
  • What activities you will do at the next meeting
  • Family help or assistance that is needed
  • Supplies or materials that girls will need to bring to the next meeting
  • Reminders about important dates and upcoming activities

Hello Girl Scout Families:
We had a wonderful time today discovering the world of girls we live in and earned the *A World of Girls* Hear a Story Award.

We had fun:
  • Getting to know about the circle of girls we are part of through games
  • Being detectives to find clues in stories
  • Creating our own “suitcase” to keep track of our travels through *A World of Girls*

Continue the fun at home:
  • Talk to your Brownie about how your family is connected to different parts of the world by your family’s native origin, where your favorite foods originate, places you’ve visited and more!
  • Read stories with your Brownie and help her find problems in the stories. Ask her how she might solve the problem if she were in the book.
  • Look at the *A World of Girls Journey* book and read about the adventures of Campbell, Jamila and Alejandra as they travel around the world.

Thank you for bringing your Brownie to Girl Scouts!

*This activity plan was adapted from Girl Scouts River Valleys.*
Escargot Diagram