

## Key Terms

---

*Instructions:* Read the following key terms. If there are words in the definitions of each term that you do not understand, underline them and ask your teacher to explain them to you. The definitions below are based on those provided by the National Center for Transgender Equality, Teaching Tolerance, and the Trevor Project.

**Birth Sex:** A set of genetic, chemical, and anatomical features that a person is born with or that develop over time. These characteristics determine whether someone's sex is labeled as male, female, or intersex (people born with genetic, chemical, and anatomical features that are not clearly male or female or are a combination of both).

**Gender:** A social construct, or an idea created by people in power to help them understand and categorize the world around them. Gender and sex are not the same. Sex is determined based on genetic, chemical, and anatomical features that a person is born with or develops over time. Categories of gender, on the other hand, are constructed based on personal, societal, and cultural factors.

**Assigned Gender:** The gender a child is given when born. Usually, doctors, parents, and other people base this gender on the birth sex of the baby.

**Gender Identity:** Someone's internal knowledge of their gender, or in other words, the gender they feel represents them. For example, a person's internal knowledge that they are a woman, a man, or some other gender.

**Gender Presentation:** How a person chooses to express their gender identity to the rest of the world through visible choices. For example, a person may choose to express their gender identity through their clothing choices or their mannerisms and behaviors.

**Gender Binary:** The incorrect idea that only two genders exist—male and female.

**Transgender:** A person whose gender identity and/or gender expression differ from their assigned birth sex.

**Cisgender:** A person whose gender identity and birth sex align.

**Gender Non-Conforming:** A term many people who do not dress, behave, or otherwise conform with gender expectations use to describe themselves.

**Gender Transition:** The period of time when a person first begins to live according to their gender identity, not the gender they were assigned at birth based on their birth sex. Gender transitioning looks different for each person. It can include changes in any or all of the following: name, appearance, pronouns, or many other things. It may also include undergoing hormone therapy or other medical procedures.

**Transgender Woman:** A transgender person who lives her life as a woman.

**Transgender Man:** A transgender person who lives his life as a man.