

# **PLANET PORN**

The aim of this activity is to enable us to understand and be critical of some of the messages that we receive about sex and relationships from porn, TV, film and magazines. It enables us to think more critically about 'norms' and where they come from – particularly norms relating to sexual practice, gender and sexual identity and fantasy. However it is not simply an activity where we decide what is normal and what is not normal.

## **How to play**

Print and cut whichever cards you intend to use (I just print directly onto some thick card but other people have laminated theirs). Either stick or print the explanatory note for each card on the back or sort them into a pile with the relevant printed cards kept separately (which is what I do).

Split the group into small groups: I find that groups of 4 or 5 work well. Too few and young people will feel put on the spot, too large and not everyone will feel like they can participate (if they want to). Give each group 6 of the cards, allow them up to ten minutes with each set and then swap the cards with another group. Depending on how long your session is you may or may not get through all of the cards – but this doesn't matter. Some people have said that there are too many cards for one lesson so they pick out which particular areas they would like to focus on.

Ask the groups to decide between them where they think the card may belong. “If you think it's mainly something that happens in porn, telly, films or magazines then put it on Planet Porn, if you think it's more likely to happen in real life then put it on Planet Earth.”

It's vitally important to explain that this is a discussion game: it's not simply about putting cards into two piles. You could make a case for putting many of the cards on both, or neither Planet Porn or Planet Earth.

Allow the groups to self-facilitate and wonder around the room to offer help and additional facilitation (in my experience one person decides to take the lead on how the activity should run by picking up the cards and asking the group questions). Groups often find it helpful to spread all the cards out first but leave this up to them. If a group looks to have finished their discussion pretty quickly head over and play devil's advocate with some of the cards "why have you put that card there? Isn't that also true for Planet Earth/Porn too?"

Much of the learning will happen during these small groups, which allow the individuals to set their own level of participation. At the end of the lesson bring everyone back together and ask some questions in order to draw together some of the key learning points. Here are some ideas for questions:

- What are the similarities with sex in the media and real life sex?
- What are the differences?
- Are people influenced by sex in the media when they have sex?
- Who decides what is 'normal' sex?
- Is it ok to talk about sex which is normal and sex which isn't?

**DOES THE CARD BELONG ON ...**



**OR SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN?**

A lot of what happens in porn is a reflection of what happens in real life, some people also think that real life sex is influenced by porn. So many can go on both - does that make sense?

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A lot of what happens in porn is a reflection of what happens in real life, some people also think that real life sex is influenced by porn. So many can go on both - does that make sense?

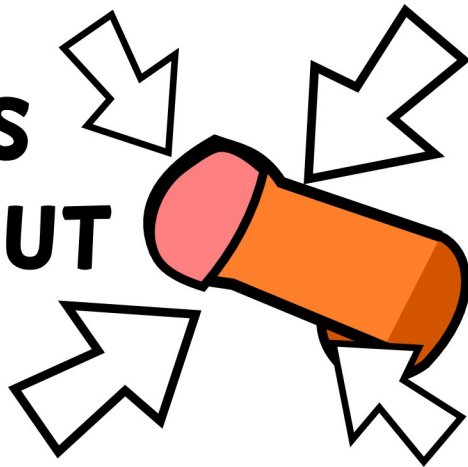
**WHERE PEOPLE  
GO FOR VERY  
REGULAR  
CHECK-UPS**



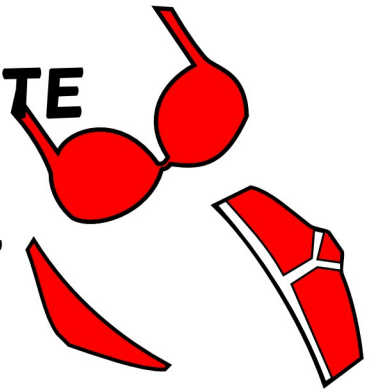
**WHERE SEX  
ENDS WHEN  
THE GUY CUMS**

Right,  
we're done  
here

**WHERE SEX IS  
ALWAYS ABOUT  
THE PENIS**



**WHERE PEOPLE WASTE  
NO TIME IN TAKING  
THEIR CLOTHES OFF**

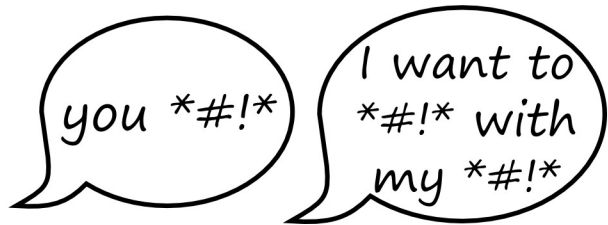


**WHERE CONDOMS  
ARE VERY  
POPULAR**

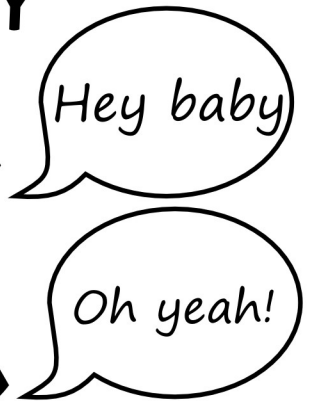


**WHERE SEX IS  
#EPIC**

WHERE PEOPLE USE  
**SEX INSULTS**

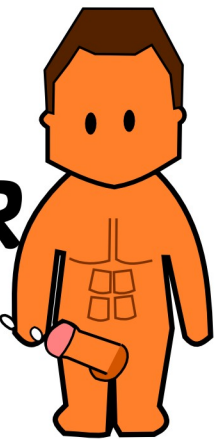


WHERE PEOPLE ONLY  
EVER TALK ABOUT  
**SEX**



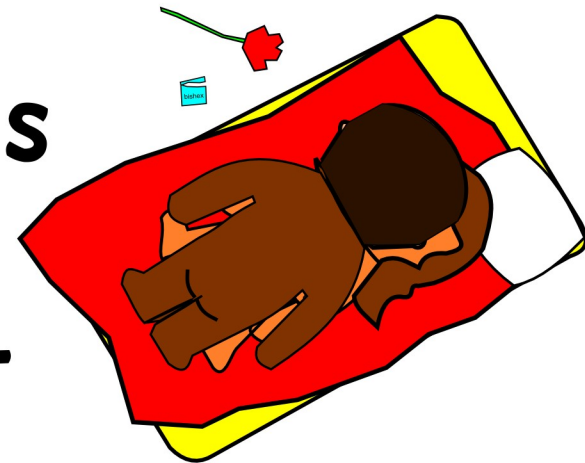
WHERE SEX IS  
USUALLY **PRIVATE**  
AND INTIMATE

WHERE MALES  
USUALLY CUM OVER  
THEIR PARTNERS

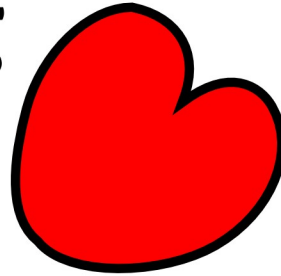


WHERE SEX CAN BE QUITE  
**AGGRESSIVE**

WHERE SEX IS  
CLOSE AND  
MEANINGFUL



**WHERE PEOPLE HAVE  
SEX WITH PEOPLE  
THEY LOVE**



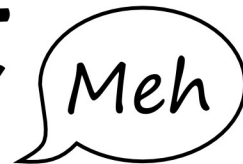
**WHERE MOST PEOPLE  
DO NOT LIKE ANAL SEX**

**WHERE SEX IS  
ALWAYS IN THE  
SAME ORDER**

1. Script blah blah
2. Take off clothes
3. Oral
4. Entry sex
  - 4a.. On back
  - 4b. On top
  - 4c. From behind
5. Ejaculate

**WHERE  
KISSING  
IS SO GOOD IT LASTS FOR AGES**

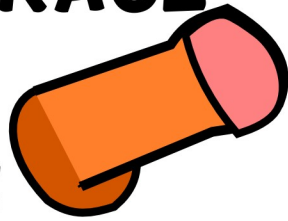
**WHERE PEOPLE ARE  
OFTEN NOT REALLY  
TURNED ON**



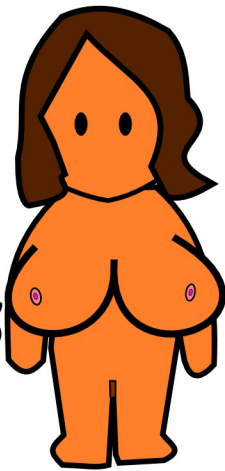
**WHERE PEOPLE  
EXAGGERATE  
HOW GOOD SEX IS**



WHERE THE AVERAGE  
PENIS SIZE IS  
UNDER 6 INCHES



WHERE WOMEN  
HAVE BIG BOOBS  
AND THIN TUMMIES



WHERE THE AVERAGE  
TIME IT TAKES TO  
ORGASM IS UNDER  
10 MINUTES



WHERE MOST WOMEN  
DON'T USUALLY ORGASM  
FROM JUST ENTRY SEX

Gnnn!

WHERE EVERYONE ALWAYS  
**ORGASMS**

\*yelps\*

OMG!

\*groans\*

WHERE PEOPLE  
USUALLY KEEP  
THEIR PUBES



WHERE WE SEE POSITIVE  
IMAGES OF DIFFERENT

**RACES**



WHERE PEOPLE  
WITH DISABILITIES  
HAVE SEX

WHERE SEX IS MAINLY  
ABOUT WHAT MEN WANT

WHERE WE SEE PEOPLE WITH  
DIFFERENT KINDS OF

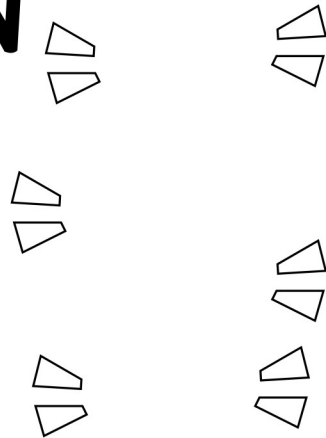
**GENDER**



WHERE WOMEN  
ARE PAID  
MORE THAN MEN



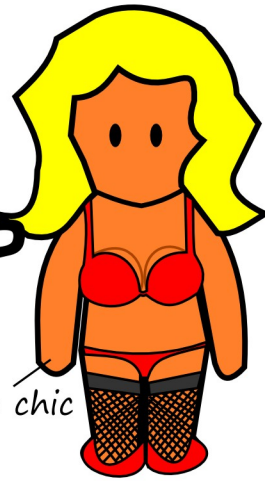
WHERE IF WOMEN  
AREN'T SEXY,  
THEY ARE  
INVISIBLE



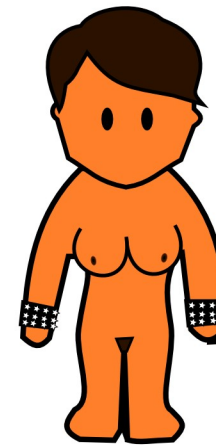
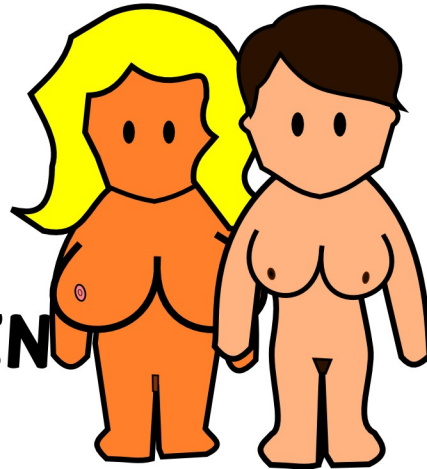


**WHERE MEN ARE  
USUALLY IN  
CONTROL OF SEX**

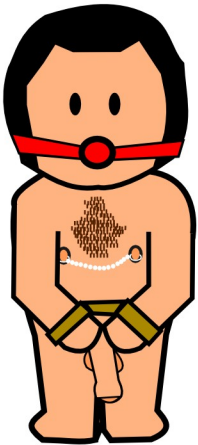
**WHERE PEOPLE DON'T  
ALWAYS WEAR MAKE UP  
OR DRESS UP FOR SEX**



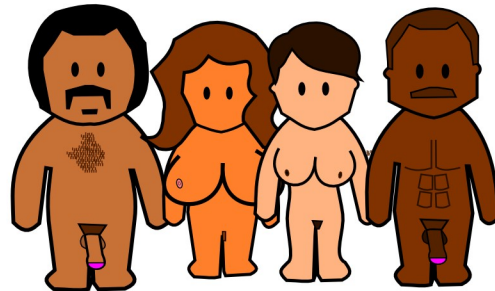
**WHERE LESBIANS  
DO NOT OFTEN  
HAVE SEX WITH MEN**



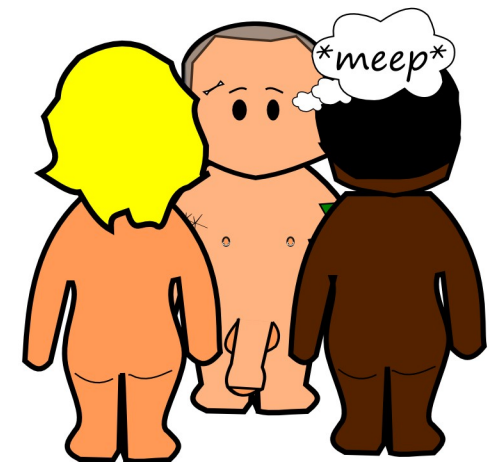
**WHERE SEX CAN  
INVOLVE  
DOMINATION  
AND PAIN**



**WHERE ALMOST  
NO MEN ARE  
BISEXUAL**



**WHERE PEOPLE  
MAINLY LIKE TO  
DO IT WITH ONE  
PERSON AT  
A TIME**



WHERE SEX IS  
ALWAYS VERY  
**LOUD**



WHERE HOUSEWIVES ARE  
ALWAYS BORED AND  
SEXUALLY FRUSTRATED

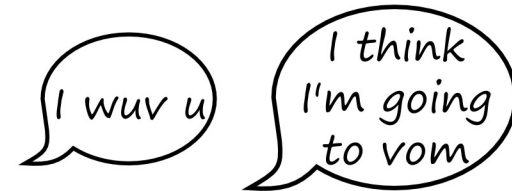
WHERE PIZZA  
DELIVERY  
GUYS JUST  
DELIVER PIZZA



WHERE EVERYONES  
SEXUAL LIMITS ARE  
AGREED IN ADVANCE

WHERE ENTRY SEX IS  
ALWAYS THE MOST  
IMPORTANT THING

like penis/sex toy  
in vagina or in anus



WHERE PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THEIR  
**FEELINGS**

## **WHERE SEX ENDS WHEN THE GUY CUMS**

In porn featuring a guy with a penis, the end of the scene is when they cum. In real life sex doesn't have to end when the guy cums (though sadly it often does). A couple can carry on kissing, or use their hands or other parts of their body on each other. It doesn't have to matter as much that one person has an orgasm before the other.

Males usually cum in less than 10 minutes of quick thrusting and it can take them a few minutes to get another erection afterwards (known as the refractory period). Why does sex seem to end when the man cums in porn? Is this porn reflecting real life or real life reflecting porn? Or neither? Or both?

## **WHERE PEOPLE WASTE NO TIME IN TAKING THEIR CLOTHES OFF**

Apart from a very small amount of porn where actors keep their clothes on\*, clothes are removed pretty quickly in porn. Also the lights are always on really bright so that viewers can see everything.

On Planet Earth people like to take their time taking each others clothes off because it can be sexy and fun. It can build up the excitement and make sex last longer. Also it's ok to keep some clothes on or to dim the lights - often people aren't that confident about getting naked in front of someone at first.

\* for instance there's a genre featuring clothed women in a group who humiliate a single naked man

## **WHERE SEX IS #EPIC**

In professionally made porn the sex may seem to last for ages and they have lots of different kinds of sex in different kama sutra type positions. Remember it's different from real life because porn is edited. Viewers also expect to see various sex acts and they want value for money (if they've paid for it), this is why it lasts for a long time and is so epic.

In real life not everyone like sex to last that long. People can get sore or tired after a lot of sex. It can be a good idea to have a break now and again. Also having really good sex is more to do with knowing how your body works and communicating this to someone rather than going through loads of positions. Different positions can be fun and good to explore, but good sex isn't about performance.

## **WHERE PEOPLE GO FOR VERY REGULAR CHECK-UPS**

Porn actors who have entry sex with each other are putting themselves at risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections like HIV - especially if they don't wear condoms. To reduce this risk the professional studios require that their performers have a check up for STIs once a month - sometimes even more.

If porn performers only had sex with each other and everyone had the all clear for STIs they'd be at very low risk. However they also have sex with people outside the porn world who don't have as many check-ups.

## **WHERE SEX IS ALWAYS ABOUT THE PENIS**

In porn featuring penises the focus of the camera is usually on the penis and how much pleasure it is getting and giving to the person it is having sex with. Often the focus on the penis is so much that we don't see the head of the person attached to it.

Why is the attention on the penis and the person it is having sex with? Who is most porn made for? Do you think a lot of emphasis is placed on the penis in general? Is sex about the penis on Planet Earth?

## **WHERE CONDOMS ARE VERY POPULAR**

In the UK condoms are very popular\*. They are also used widely as the best way of having entry sex and preventing STIs. In straight porn they aren't used regularly at all, which puts the performers at risk (although there is a new law in California, where most porn is made, to make condoms compulsory in porn). Some studios always use condoms and they have been much more popular in gay porn for years (although there is an increasing amount of 'bareback' gay porn).

The makers say that their customers don't want to see condoms in porn. What do you think? And why is it that condoms are much much more common in gay porn? Would it make the viewer more likely to want to use condoms?

\*About 80% of 16-24 used condoms when they first had sex <http://www.fpa.org.uk/factsheets/sexual-behaviour>

## WHERE PEOPLE ONLY EVER TALK ABOUT SEX

Porn is about sex and although there might be a bit of a script it's mainly about doing it rather than talking about it.

Talking about what sex we want is important though. If we don't we might have sex we either don't like or don't want. Consent innit?

It might also feel like people only ever talk about sex. Sex is great and it can be exciting and interesting talking about it: but not all the time! Also not everyone is interested in sex, even though sometimes it might feel compulsory. Some people don't feel very sexual, or want to wait till they get a bit older or identify as asexual. Not everyone wants to talk about sex.

## WHERE PEOPLE USE SEX INSULTS

Think of a swear word: is it to do with sex? Lots of swear words are to do with sexual practices (eg f\*\*k, w\*\*k) or sexual anatomy (c\*\*k, c\*\*t). Some words are about gender (sl\*t, sl\*g, wh\*\*e) or sexualities (qu\*\*r, f\*g, dy\*e). These are really powerful words. Some people see them as being both insulting and sexy, others see them as being just insulting. In negotiating sex it's a good idea to agree on what terms you would and wouldn't like to use.

In both the way porn is described and in the actual 'script' there is a lot of use of these sex insults. Is this necessary? Does it have an effect on people watching it?

## WHERE MALES USUALLY CUM OVER THEIR PARTNERS

External ejaculation is very popular in porn. It's also known as the 'money shot' and is usually the climax of the scene. Typically the person ejaculating doesn't ask the other person if this is ok, they just say that they are going to do it and maybe where they are going to do it.

In reality not everyone likes this and some people think that being ejaculated over is a bit degrading, or messy. But some people think it's really sexy to do this and to be cummed over. It's really important to ask before sex. Some people may like being ejaculated on particular parts of their body but not others.

Why do you think they have external ejaculation? Do people like this because they see it in porn, or is it in porn because people do it?

## WHERE SEX IS USUALLY PRIVATE AND INTIMATE

On Planet Earth sex can be about a connection between two people and chemistry and intimacy. They look into each others eyes, smile and get excited about spending time with each other. Usually they have the door closed, with no-one else around and with no interruptions. Are there times when people have sex that isn't like this though? Where do young people first have sex? Is private and intimate sex 'better' than other kinds of sex?

In porn there is often more than one actor, there is a camera person a sound person, a director, a make-up artist, a set designer, a lighting person. Also the actors (usually women) are asked to look at the camera. They have to do it in positions that look good on camera. Do you think porn sex could be enjoyable?

## WHERE SEX IS CLOSE AND MEANINGFUL

People who work in porn often have love partners, people that they have meaningful and close sex with. They often say that they prefer this kind of sex to work sex. There are also a lot of porn performers who only make porn with their partners: lots of amateur or homemade porn features actual couples doing each other.

Is sex always close and meaningful on Planet Earth? Can people enjoy sex with someone they don't know very well? Is it possible to have not very meaningful but fun sex with someone you love?

## WHERE SEX CAN BE QUITE AGGRESSIVE

Sex in BDSM porn can feature a lot of acts which causes pain: in the full video they show the actors clearly agreeing to do this (see the other card about BDSM) and it is clear that those taking part are playing roles. However in a lot of 'mainstream porn' (stuff which is most available for free) there is hair pulling, spanking, slapping and rough handling which isn't clearly consented to (though the actors may well have agreed to this off camera). Often in straight porn it's the man treating the woman roughly. Is this a problem do you think? What do people learn about power and consent from porn?

On Planet Earth sex can be nice and gentle but sometimes people prefer touching which is more aggressive (even if it isn't BDSM or Kink). It's really important to agree this in advance and to be clear about boundaries otherwise it could be an assault.

## **WHERE MOST PEOPLE DO NOT LIKE ANAL SEX**

Anal sex is very popular in a lot of porn, this includes penis in anus and sex toy in anus sex, but not all performers 'do anal'. In real life a lot of gay and straight men and women like anal sex, but most people don't. Not all gay men are into anal sex and some straight men like anal sex from their female partner (with a toy, or fingers).

They never show how to have anal sex safely in porn. It's important to go slowly at first, gently relaxing the anus with fingers and lube. It's also important not to insert something inside a vagina or mouth that's just been inside an anus. It's also good to use condoms as it's high risk for STIs.

## **WHERE PEOPLE HAVE SEX WITH PEOPLE THEY LOVE**

People may have sex with each other when they love each other, but some relationships can be loving without sex. People also have sex with each other without love, just because they want to have sex, or fancy each other, or just because.

Some porn actors only have sex on camera with their love partner (this is true of a lot of 'amateur' or 'home made' porn).

What do you think about sex and love? Is sex better when there's love?

## **WHERE KISSING IS SO GOOD IT LASTS FOR AGES**

People don't usually kiss for very long in porn. Porn is visual and as kissing isn't very visual it doesn't feature very heavily. Porn producers think that people paying for it want to see people having lots of acrobatic naked sex, rather than groping and kissing fully clothed on a sofa for an hour. When there \*is\* kissing it often kinda looks like their tongues are in some kind of sword fight.

Sex is so much more than just what we can see and kissing is a good example. When you kiss you can't really see that much anyway and many people prefer to close their eyes and 'get lost in the moment' (yes that sounds soppy). Many people find that having a long snog can make them really horny, because it stimulates so many different senses at the same time.

## **WHERE SEX IS ALWAYS IN THE SAME ORDER**

In porn sex (particularly straight porn) there is usually an order for various sex acts. Kissing (for not very long), clothes off, oral sex, entry sex (in various positions) and then an external ejaculation or obvious orgasm.

Is this what happens in the real world? Does porn have an effect on how people have sex? Or does how people have sex have an effect on what porn is made?

These sex scripts (in porn and real life) give people the idea that there is only one way to have sex and that that should be the same for everyone. What do you think about that?

## **WHERE PEOPLE EXAGGERATE HOW GOOD SEX IS**

Everything is exaggerated on Planet Porn so when they have sex on camera they act to make it look like it's the best sex ever, even when it isn't, or they are thinking about the gas bill, or what they are having for their tea.

Sometimes people think that sex is overrated on Planet Earth too. Sex isn't always brilliant - we need to do it with the right person at the right time. Also we need good communication, trust and energy for enjoyable sex, sometimes that doesn't always happen. Also some people just aren't as into sex. Some folk want romantic relationships but when it comes to sex they are a bit 'meh' about it.

Also sometimes people pretend to their partner they enjoyed sex more than they did, what do you think about that?

## **WHERE PEOPLE ARE OFTEN NOT REALLY TURNED ON**

Male porn performers have to be able to maintain an erection at all times - it can be hard to stay hard. It's difficult to find male performers with big penises who can stay hard (which is why it's often the same guys in porn scenes). When they do lose their erection the director calls cut and they edit those bits out. In the real world sometimes people lose their erection, it's fine, and it really does happen to everyone with a penis.

Female porn performers may also not really be turned on. Lubricant is used to make sure that sex on camera does not get too sore. In real life it's better to try and get turned on so that the vagina stretches and gets wet, enabling sex to be pleasurable.

Are people \*always\* turned on when they have sex on Planet Earth? How can people get turned on before they have sex?

## WHERE WOMEN HAVE BIG BOOBS AND SMALL TUMMIES

In porn and particularly glamour modelling women often have slim tummies and big boobs. Women are chosen in part because of their bodies and their ability to act sexily: it's a qualification. Also lots of women in sexual media have had boob jobs and most photos are photo shopped.

But how many real women's bodies do you see in regular films or fashion magazines? Some people say that porn bodies are more diverse than in non-porn films and magazines: what do you think? Also there's a lot of porn with different bodies, very slim, big beautiful women (BBW), some hairy guys, some muscly guys, some thinner guys. For female porn stars (rather than lad's mag models) the most common bra size is 34B\*.

\* From 'Deep Inside: A study of 10,000 porn stars and their careers.' By Jon Millward

## WHERE THE AVERAGE PENIS SIZE IS UNDER 6 INCHES

The most reliable studies of penis size suggest that the average size of erect penises is under 6 inches in length\*. Most men would like a larger penis but most of their partners are 100% happy with their partner's penis.

Penises in porn are bigger because they employ performers who happen to have bigger than average penises. They have to be at least 6 inches but often over 8 inches. They can be made to look bigger with camera tricks, trimmed pubes and sometimes even fake plastic penises!

Why are penises bigger than average in porn?

\* The latest study suggests it's 5.6 inches.

<http://mysexprofessor.com/sexual-health/our-new-penis-size-study-data-from-1661-men-in-the-united-states/>

## WHERE MOST WOMEN DON'T ORGASM FROM ENTRY SEX

It's only the minority of women with vaginas\* that can orgasm just from penis or toy in vagina sex (the Hite Report suggests 30%). Most women need direct stimulation of the clitoris in order to orgasm. But women can have orgasms more easily from other kinds of sex, such as masturbation or oral sex.

In porn some women have orgasms when they are working, but many don't. If you see someone having an orgasm they are either pretending or are making it seem more exciting than it actually is.

\* Remember not all women have vaginas and some men do (see one of the other cards) ....

## WHERE THE AVERAGE TIME IT TAKES TO ORGASM IS UNDER 10 MINUTES

In real life the average time it takes men (with penises) to cum is under 10 minutes of entry sex (although it is possible for guys to last longer than that with practice). In porn men must be able to cum at the right time. Porn scenes last for about 20 minutes or so. They are edited down so the male actor may have to 'last' for longer than an hour.

Females can also orgasm in under 10 minutes but not usually from entry sex. Most females find that other kinds of sexual contact is likely to result in orgasms. Remember penis in vagina sex is usually more stimulating for the penis than the vagina.\*

\* For more on this <http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/resources/FAQ.html#orgasm>

## WHERE PEOPLE USUALLY KEEP THEIR PUBES

Pubes are important. They help to lubricate and protect genitals to prevent rashes and friction burns during sex. Some people think that they also emit pheromones - our own natural scent which makes us attractive to other people. Pubes are often either shaved off completely or trimmed till they are very short. This is so people can see what's going on. It can also make penises look bigger. This happens both on Planet Porn and on Planet Earth. Your pubes, your choice.

Which came first? Does one influence the other? Does porn influence non porn sex or is it the other way around?

## WHERE EVERYONE ALWAYS ORGASMS

In the real world not everyone has an orgasm from entry sex. Lots of people need stimulation with hands in order to orgasm. Orgasms are fantastic but they don't always happen and it doesn't mean that sex isn't enjoyable. (In fact sometimes focussing on having an orgasm can make them harder to have).

In porn they exaggerate how much they are enjoying it and the guys have to orgasm (or they get another guy who can). Sometimes female performers have orgasms, but often they pretend. It's important in porn for them to show orgasms and to fake them when they don't happen. Also ejaculation isn't the same as having an orgasm.

Can porn teach people about pleasurable sex? Like how to have orgasms?

## WHERE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE SEX

There are over 10 million people in the UK with a disability, which is around 1 in 6 of the population. Most of these will be having some kind of sex with another or themselves. People with disabilities can and do want to have sex and relationships.

Can you think of any stories or images of people with disabilities having a sex life? Not just porn, but on TV, in magazines, etc? This kind of suggests that people with disabilities aren't seen as sexual. Why?

## WHERE WE SEE POSITIVE IMAGES OF DIFFERENT RACES

Some porn features racism which makes fun of language or stereotyped views of people. For instance black guys in gangs with big penises or 'Asian' women being obedient and passive. Lots of people object to porn for this reason.

However some non-white people working in porn say that there are lots of opportunities for them to show themselves positively. There are a number of very well known non-white porn stars and models.

Are there positive images of different races in non-porn media? TV? Magazines?

## WHERE WE SEE PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF GENDER

There are more genders than being a man or a woman. Most people are **cis-gender** (eg born male and are a man) but many people are **trans men** or **trans women**. There are also lots of variations of gender where people are more masculine or feminine than their gender or sexuality allows - like (eg) being camp, a bear, or butch, or femme. There are also genderqueer people who don't choose traditional gender for themselves.

The most popular porn has quite traditional gender roles with cis actors. However there are some very famous porn stars who have non-traditional genders (eg Buck Angel, or Jiz Lee). Can you think of any famous people who aren't cis gendered in the non-porn world? How accepting are we of people who are trans or genderqueer?

## WHERE SEX IS MAINLY ABOUT WHAT MEN WANT

Most porn is made for men, so the performers are directed to do what the studios think that male viewers want to watch. But what about the real world? Is sex mainly about what men want? What do women want from sex?

Some porn is made by women for women - what might be the differences between porn made for women and porn made for men? Can porn be made for men and women? Can porn also be made for people who are trans or not 'men' or 'women'? Is it possible to make porn that everyone might find sexy?

## WHERE IF WOMEN AREN'T SEXY, THEY ARE INVISIBLE

As most straight porn is made for men the women having sex in it are usually there because they look sexy and can act sexy. It matters less what the men look like because the focus of the camera isn't really on them (apart from on their torso and genital area). Men aren't the stars so they don't get paid well (they often get paid more if they do gay porn).

Think of how women are represented on Planet Earth. Can you think of famous, talented or powerful women who aren't 'sexy' to look at? Are women judged more for how they look than men? What do you think?

## WHERE WOMEN ARE PAID MORE THAN MEN

Women actors and models are paid more than their male actors and models in porn. In the non-porn world women are paid less than men: in the UK women are paid just 79% of what men earn\*. Women are the stars of most porn (some straight male actors choose to do gay porn because it actually pays better).

However most porn directors and studio owners are men and they earn the most out of porn. What do you think?

\* <http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2010/aug/19/equal-pay-women-2057>

## WHERE PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS WEAR MAKE UP OR DRESS UP FOR SEX

In porn the actors have to look their best, but also they dress up in sexy underwear and wear make up (yes even the men). They have to spend a lot of time looking after themselves, staying in shape, getting fake tans, having bits of their skin bleached, having hair removed and other things. In the real world people don't always shave, or brush their hair or put lipstick on before having sex.

Why might some people like dressing up for sex? Do we have to look sexy to feel sexy? Who decides what looks sexy and what doesn't? Us?

## WHERE SEX CAN INVOLVE DOMINATION AND PAIN

**BDSM** is a kind of sex which features someone taking control over someone else - **with that person's consent**. It may involve pain, punishment, restraint, denial of senses or ordering someone to do something. It's complicated but it is something which exists in porn and in real life. In BDSM porn they often show an interview of the people involved consenting and talking about the sex afterwards. However a lot of porn features slapping, hair grabbing, choking and aggressive language (often towards women) without it necessarily being labeled '**BDSM**'.

Some people who are into this just watch porn but some also do it in real life. What do you think about this? Should porn and books show people how to do this safely and how people can get and give consent? Does watching this kind of porn make people more aggressive when they have sex?

## WHERE MOST PEOPLE LIKE TO DO IT WITH ONE PERSON AT A TIME

In porn, group sex is very popular. But in the real world people usually only like having sex with one person at a time. Group sex is popular in porn because more people means there is more going on.

Group sex on Planet Earth is a lot harder than it seems on Planet Porn because it's hard to get a bunch of people together who all fancy each other. Also negotiating consent is harder with more people around.

Is it possible for people to enjoy group sex in the real world? What problems might there be with having sex with more than one person? How might people overcome these difficulties?

## WHERE MEN ARE USUALLY IN CONTROL OF SEX

In some porn the male actors appear to be in control of what's happening. They say what they want to do and what they want the other person to do. However sometimes female actors do this. In a lot of porn one of the male actors is in control of the camera, which also happens in amateur porn films.

Sadly many people on Planet Earth feel that men are usually in control of sex. Sometimes women having sex with men actively consent to this happening, but often they don't feel able to take control of sex or to have a say in what happens. Why is this? What do you think of relationships where one person has control over sex?

## WHERE LESBIANS DO NOT OFTEN HAVE SEX WITH MEN

There is a lot of porn which features two women having sex with each other. However these women often end up having sex with other guys too. Many lesbians find that lesbian sex scenes in porn aren't very authentic and that they aren't really made with them in mind.

Our sexual identity isn't just about what kind of sex we have and with whom and we choose to identify ourselves however we like. So someone can be a lesbian and have had sex with a man.

Why is 'lesbian' sex in porn so popular? Why is it included on straight porn websites but not in 'gay porn' websites? Why is there no gay male porn on straight porn websites?

## WHERE ALMOST NO MEN ARE BISEXUAL

Although it's difficult finding out how many people are bisexual on Planet Earth, it's thought that there are more bisexual people (3-5%) than lesbian or gay people (1-3%). Also many more people say that they are attracted to people of more than just one gender or that they've had a sexual experience with different genders (one report says 23% of 16-24s have had a same sex sexual contact)\*.

In Planet Porn most women seem to be bisexual but men very rarely are. When there are two men in straight porn they rarely touch each other and get into very strange positions to make sure they don't. Bisexual guys are seen in gay porn but still not very often. Why do you think this is?

\* Stats from The Bisexuality Report. by Meg Barker et al. Open University



## **WHERE HOUSEWIVES ARE ALWAYS BORED AND SEXUALLY FRUSTRATED**

This is another one of those silly stereotypes that have been around in porn for years (nowadays more popularly known as MILFs). Other female stereotypes in porn are sexy nurses, naughty teachers, horny secretaries etc. What do you think about these roles? Do they show women as being positive and powerful? What jobs do women have on Planet Earth?

Is this harmless fun, or is it harmful and sexist? Do you think that these stereotypes might have an impact on how men see women and how women see themselves?

## **WHERE SEX IS ALWAYS VERY LOUD**

In the real world people sometimes moan and groan when they have sex, but some people are very quiet and just breathe heavily (kinda like a mild asthma attack). How much noise someone makes doesn't indicate how much they are enjoying it - even ninjas can enjoy sex.

In porn sex is noisy, which at least drowns out the terrible music. Often they are exaggerating the pleasure noises they are making. Some people get confused by the screaming and think that it's hurting. It's probably just over-acting.

## **WHERE EVERYONES SEX LIMITS ARE AGREED IN ADVANCE**

In porn, sexy modelling and in any kind of sex work, the limits of what they will and won't do are agreed in advance. There will be some things that some people will do and some they won't (eg partial or full nudity, solo sex or particular kinds of sex with someone).

Can people set sexual boundaries in real world, in real sexual relationships? How can these boundaries be set in advance? What makes this difficult? How can this be made easier to talk about? Does talking about limits make sex better or less exciting?

## **WHERE PIZZA DELIVERY GUYS JUST DELIVER PIZZA**

There are lots of occupations in porn where people have more sex than the average person. Pizza delivery people (used to be milk men back in the day), gardeners, plumbers, cable guys, IT support, teachers, taxi drivers, firemen all seem to 'get lucky' very often. Whilst this may be true for a small number of people in these occupations, I wouldn't suggest applying for a job just because you think you might get lots of sex.

Does this cause any harm do you think? Is it just silly and harmless or might it have an affect? Might people be sexually harassed because they have a job that features in porn a lot?

## **WHERE PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS**

Porn performers probably do talk about their feelings but not on camera. Porn is all about the sex, it's a fantasy for people watching and in fantasies sex can be meaningless, can just happen with anyone with no consequences and it's always perfect. It must be quite difficult for some people working in porn to have real life sexual relationships: what issues might come up do you think?

What about the real world? Can sex change relationships? Can sex lead to big time feelings? Or do big time feelings lead to sex? Can people have enjoyable sex without feelings? Do we **have** to talk about our feelings? Are there other ways that we can show someone we care about them?

## **WHERE ENTRY SEX IS ALWAYS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING**

Some people think that sex is all about entry sex (or penetration), for instance penis in vagina. Other people think that sex is much **much** more than that: kissing, stroking, whispers, hot body rubs, grinding, masturbating, licking, biting, talking, looking, playing etc etc. All this stuff can be really really sexy too, sometimes even better. Many people find that just entry sex doesn't really do it for them.

What do you think? What's the most important thing? Is there a most important thing? How can we find out what kind of sexy touch we like? How can we share that with someone else?