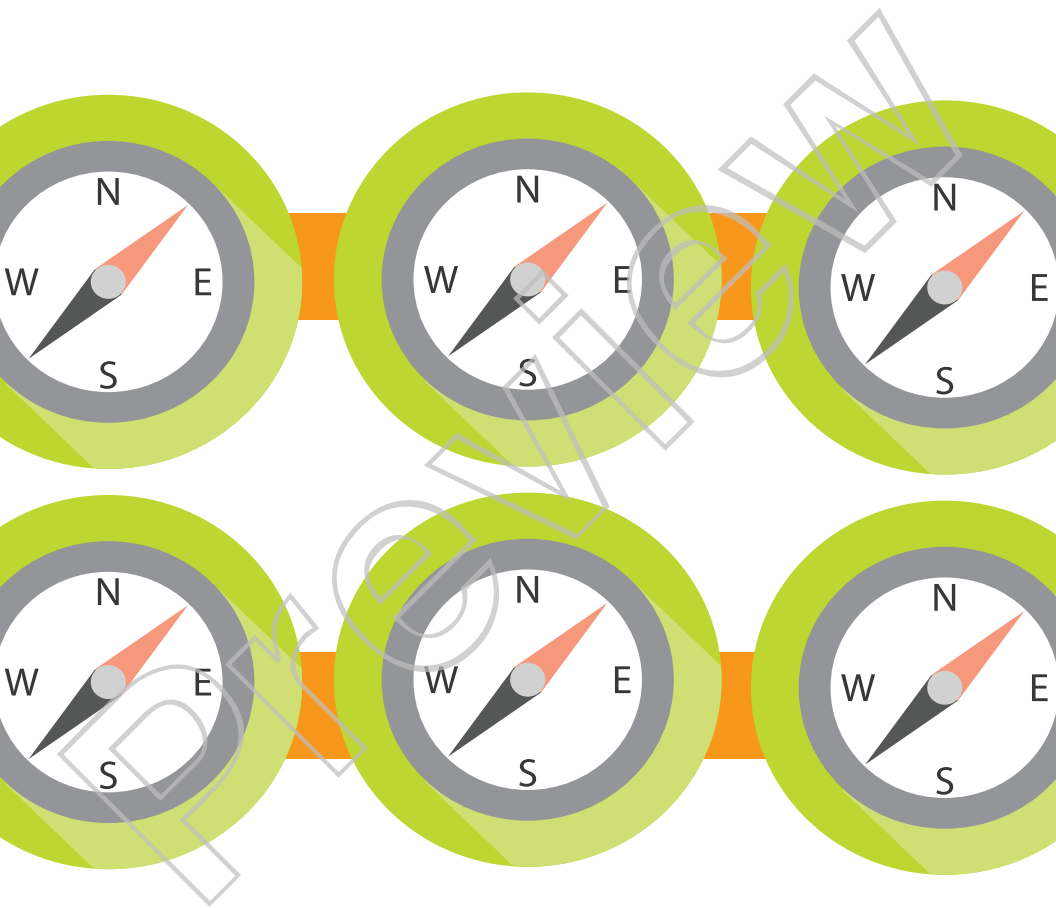


Learning About Careers

Career Exploration Activity Book



Activities to help you learn about your career options, so you can choose a career that's right for you

Getting Started

It's never too early to start learning about your career options, and to think about which careers might be right for you.

Deciding which careers to consider can be difficult. On one hand, there is you, a unique individual with specific interests, abilities, talents, and values. On the other hand are the hundreds of careers from which you can choose.

In order to find the careers that may be a good match for you, you need to think about what kinds of things you like to do, what you do well, and what's important to you. You also need to learn as much as you can about your career choices. *This booklet will help you explore your career choices and determine which careers or career areas might be a good fit for you.*

Careers by School Subject

It's smart to consider careers related to your favorite school subjects. These are often the careers you're likely to enjoy the most, and have the most success with.

What school subject do you like and do well in? _____

Name as many careers as you can related to that subject.

Which of these careers sound the most interesting to you?

Popular Careers

Below are some of the most popular careers. Circle three careers you would like to learn more about.

Accountant	Computer programmer	Musician	Reporter
Actor/Actress	Dental hygienist	Nurse	Salesperson
Architect	Dentist	Paramedic	Secretary
Artist	Electrician	Pharmacist	Social worker
Athletic trainer	Engineer	Photographer	Stockbroker
Biologist	Fashion designer	Physical therapist	Systems analyst
Broadcaster	Firefighter	Physician	Teacher
Carpenter	Flight attendant	Police officer	Truck driver
Chemist	Lawyer	Politician	Veterinarian
Chiropractor	Medical technician	Psychologist	Writer

Choose one career you circled (or another career you're interested in) and list four traits or skills you would need to be successful in that career.

Career: _____

1. _____

3. _____

2. _____

4. _____

Fast-Growing Career Fields

When considering a career, it's important to think about the job outlook. You need to know how easy it will be to find a job in that career field.

Why do you think each of these career fields is growing?

Healthcare careers _____

STEM careers _____

Green careers _____

Career Clusters

Below are the 16 Career Clusters, along with the kind of work people do in each. Put a ✓ by those you might be interested in.

- Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources:** farm, fish, and work to improve the environment
- Architecture & Construction:** design, build, and maintain homes and structures
- Arts, A/V Tech & Communication:** design, create, perform, and produce multimedia content
- Business Management & Administration:** plan, oversee, and organize a business
- Education & Training:** teach in schools, libraries, museums, and businesses
- Finance:** manage and work with money
- Government & Public Administration:** make laws and provide public services
- Health Science:** work in healthcare treating people and animals
- Hospitality & Tourism:** work in restaurants, hotels, and casinos
- Human Services:** help people – counseling, social work, and more
- Information Technology:** work with computers, software, and network systems
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security:** keep people safe and enforce laws
- Manufacturing:** make products, such as in a factory
- Marketing:** promote and sell goods and services
- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics:** use math and science to do research and solve problems
- Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics:** transport people and goods from one place to another

For more, watch this quick video.



Narrow your Focus

To help you determine what careers or career areas you want to focus on, use your responses on the previous pages to answer the following questions.

1. At the bottom of page 2, which two careers did you write down?

2. Which of the popular careers did you circle on page 3?

3. Which Career Clusters did you check on page 4?

Do you see any similarities or trends in your answers?

Use this information to choose a career to research.

What career did you choose? _____

No Career Path Is Permanent

It's important to realize that no career path is permanent or irreversible. In fact, most people change careers several times during their lives. Make your career choices based on who you are today, but know that you can always pursue a different career path in the future.

Do Some Research

Researching a career means that you learn everything you can about that career.

Go to www.bls.gov/ooh (the online edition of the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*), locate the career you've chosen to research, and find the answers to the following questions.

CAREER TO RESEARCH: _____

1. Tasks and Responsibilities – What does someone with this career actually do?

2. Education/Training – What kind of education/training does this career require?

3. Pay – What is the average starting pay? _____

4. Job Outlook – Is this a growing career? _____

**Do you think this career might be a good fit for you?
Why or why not?**

Continue to explore your career choices, and remember that choosing a career is a process. Keep an open mind and continue to learn as much as you can about yourself and the careers you're considering.

Career Interview

An informal interview is a great way to learn about a career. If possible, interview someone in a career you're interested in and ask the following questions. If that's not possible, interview a parent, relative, or another adult about their career.

CAREER: _____

What do you do on a typical day? _____

How did you prepare for your career? _____

What qualifications and personal characteristics does someone need in order to be successful in this career?

What do you like most about your job/career? _____

What do you like least about it? _____

Do you have any advice for someone considering this career?

What's Next?

Once you've chosen a career to consider, you need to think about how you might prepare for it.

Some careers require two or four years of college; others require only one year of training or education. In many cases, your career choice will determine which education option is most appropriate.

Which of the following options will be the best way for you to prepare for your career?

Four-Year College

A four-year college education (bachelor's degree) can provide you with a wide range of career opportunities.

Two-Year Community College

Community colleges offer affordable career programs. You can also start at a community college and transfer to a four-year college.

Career and Trade School

Career and trade schools offer short-term training in a number of career fields. Some programs last only a few weeks; others take a year or more to complete.

Apprenticeship

Apprentices learn a skilled trade through classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

Military

The U.S. military offers enlistees free job training in over 2,000 job specialties.

For more, watch this quick video.



FINAL WORDS

The best way to create a future that's bright and full of options is to get a good education. Work hard in school, get the best grades you can, and you will have a future that is full of possibilities!