

Career Curiosity

Learning Outcome/Goal:

- Students explore the full range of careers they already know.
- Students select four new careers to explore.
- Students connect a career path to the educational credentials required for that position.

Learning Outcomes:

- Career planning
- Curiosity
- Self-reflection
- Critical thinking

ASCA Student Standards:

- Self-management skills: Independent work
- Learning Strategies: Academic and career goals
- Learning Strategies: Self-motivation and self-direction of learning

Materials Needed:

- Career Inventory
- Writing utensil
- Optional: Interview worksheet

Suggested Time Allotment: 40-55 Minutes

5-10 Minutes: Outline the activity

The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that the average person holds 12-13 jobs in their lifetime. However, when asked what they want to do/be when they graduate, young people often only pinpoint a handful of possible professions.

According to a 2021 survey conducted by YouGov of 3,600 13-17-year-olds in the U.S., the top dream jobs were as follows: male-identifying students listed professional athlete, YouTuber/streamer, musician, professional gamer, and doctor/nurse taking the top five spots, in that order. For female-identifying students, the top jobs included doctor/nurse, actress, musician, artist, and YouTuber/streamer.

Unsurprisingly, roles like actuary, data scientist, or physician assistant didn't make the list. Many students' career aspirations are shaped by their surroundings and the people they know or see daily.

This activity is structured to help students reflect on the career landscape they know and inspire curiosity. It will expand students' knowledge of career possibilities and connect those possibilities to pathways to achieving a career that matches their interests.



Career Curiosity

Questions Prompts for Your Class

- What is your dream job today?
- What are some of the jobs your family, family friends, or other adults in your life have that sound interesting?
- What is a job you've heard of but don't know what they do day to day?
- What are the best ways to learn about jobs that could be a good fit for you?
- Do you think it's more important to prioritize a job and then choose a college or to choose a college and let it lead you to a career path?

10 Minutes: Inventory and learn

Distribute the **Career Inventory** and review the following directions:

Take the next 10 minutes to list the careers you know and what kind of education is required for each career. Think about your family, friends, and the people in your community. What are their jobs? Keep listing occupations until you either run out of room or time.

5-10 Minutes: Reflect as a class

Come back together as a class and discuss a few of the following questions that feel most relevant to what you'd like your class to take away:

- What are some of the jobs you wrote down?
- Did you feel confident about the level of education required for that job?
- Who completed their chart?
- Were there any themes you noticed when completing your chart?
- Of the jobs you wrote down, how many have you considered pursuing for your future?

After discussing a few of the questions above, outline the next step of the activity. They will now learn about different jobs they may or may not have heard of before. Encourage them to select a job they know the least about from each category. They will only choose one job from each of the following to continue to research:

- Jobs that require a high school diploma.
- Jobs that require a certificate or associate degree.
- Jobs that require a bachelor's degree.
- Jobs that require an advanced degree.



Career Curiosity

15 Minutes: Explore new jobs

Instruct students to use the 2nd page of the career inventory and review the following directions:

Learn about four new jobs. Pick and circle one job from each category. Once you've selected the job, visit the **Encourage** app or onetonline.org to learn about each job's salary and responsibilities.

There is space below each education level to write down what they have learned.

5-10 Minutes: Pair and share

Ask students to turn to the student or students next to them and share what they learned, especially as it pertains to the following questions:

- What surprised you?
- Would you consider any of the jobs you researched?

Optional Homework

Involving families and communities in college and career planning can positively impact young peoples' educational and professional goals. To engage these adults, consider assigning students an interview task.

Interview an adult in your life whose career you don't know much about using the questions below:

- What is your job title?
- What do you do day to day?
- What was your educational path to this job?
- What career advice do you have for me?

[illegible]



Career Inventory

Directions: Learn about four new jobs. Pick and circle one job from each category. Once you've selected the jobs, visit the **Encourage** app or onetonline.org to learn about each job's salary and responsibilities.

High School Diploma

- Construction Laborer
- Customer Service Representative
- Heavy Tractor/Truck Driver
- Tree Trimmer/Pruner
- Agricultural Inspector
- Travel Guide

Salary: _____

Responsibilities: _____

Certificate/Associate's Degree

- Paramedic
- Private Detective and Investigator
- Wind Turbine Service Technician
- Machinist
- Chef/Head Cook
- Mortician

Salary: _____

Responsibilities: _____

Bachelor's Degree

- Human Resources Specialist
- Logistics Analyst
- Special Effects Artist and Animator
- Airline Pilot
- Automotive Engineer
- Computer Network Architect

Salary: _____

Responsibilities: _____

Advanced Degree

- Genetic Counselor
- Economist
- Judge/Magistrate
- Curator
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Industrial-Organizational Psychologist

Salary: _____

Responsibilities: _____



Interview

Directions: Interview an adult in your life whose career you don't know much about using the questions below.

Interviewee:

What is your job title ?

What do you do day to day?

What was your educational path to this job?

What career advice do you have for me?

In the App



GRADES 7-10

Use **My Careers** to explore part-time work.

Ask students to think about the process of applying for a job.

Discuss as a class:

Has anyone had a job interview?

How can you prepare for an interview?

Student Directions:

Log in to **Encourage**.

Web: Click **My Careers**. Use the search bar.

Mobile App: Click **Explore**, click **My Careers**, and then use the search bar. Search for the following jobs to learn more about their responsibilities: waiter/waitress, cashier, lifeguard, and barista.

Write down questions you think you might be asked in a job interview for each job.

GRADES 7-10

Use **My Careers** to explore part-time work.

Ask students to make a chart of possible jobs they could get as a high school student, then research each job using the **Encourage** app.

Discuss as a class:

What are some pros and cons of working at your age?

Student Directions:

Log in to **Encourage**.

Web: Click **My Careers**. Use the search bar.

Mobile App: Click **Explore**, click **My Careers**, and use the search bar. Search for the following jobs to learn more about them: waiter/waitress, cashier, lifeguard, and barista.

GRADES 11-12

Use **My Majors** to research careers.

Ask students to connect possible majors to future careers.

Discuss as a class:

How are majors and jobs related?

How can you consider a major before a job? OR a job before a major?

Student Directions:

Log in to **Encourage**.

Click **My Majors**.

Toggle to the **Matched** tab.

(Take the quiz if you haven't.)

Click on a matched major area.

Click a specific major in that area.

Toggle to the **Careers** tab.

Explore a matched career.

GRADES 11-12

Use **My Careers** to discover **Cool Careers**.

Assign students to learn more about cool careers that populate each week in **My Careers**.

Discuss as a class:

What job did you learn about this week?

What thoughts did you have about it?

Student Directions:

Log in to **Encourage**.

Click **My Careers**.

Scroll down to **Cool Careers**.

Click on each of the three highlighted careers to learn more and discover similar careers.