

Career Exploration Lesson Plan

Modifiable for grades 3-5 and 6-8

Note for BizWorld.org Educators: We created this extension activity for Financial Literacy Month to teach students that in addition to exploring their entrepreneurial skills, they can pursue a career path in a field they are passionate about. This lesson plan has been modified for both elementary and middle school students with accompanying worksheets.

OBJECTIVE:

Students will research various career fields and explore various requirements for each.

ASSESSMENT: Students will be able to

- describe the relationship between career paths and earning income
- explain the various types of education/training required for several careers
- identify current activities that can help build skills needed for careers they are interested in for the future

VOCABULARY:

1. Job
2. Career
3. Salary
4. Income
5. Degree
6. Licenses
7. Certifications

MATERIALS:

- BizWorld.org Career Exploration Worksheet for your grade level

RESOURCES:

- Bureau of Labor Statistics
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

ACTIVITIES:

- **Introduction** - The primary way that people earn income is through their jobs.
- **Jobs vs. Careers** - A job allows you to make money, but careers allow you to pursue more long-term goals and develop your skills in a field of your choice.
- **Brainstorm** - As a class, create a diverse list of popular career fields. Group similar jobs together in same career field.
- **Teach**: Many careers require training and/or specific degrees, licenses, or certifications in order to a job in that career field (Examples of each - registered nurses, CPA, lawyer, teacher, business owner)
- **Independent/Partner Research** - Students choose 3-5 careers of interest and research - use worksheets below as guideline and website above as resource.

EXTENSION:

- Students map out their personal strengths and interests.
- Based on these qualities, pick one career of particular interest and further research the increase in earning potential depending on additional education degrees and training.
- Students discuss and evaluate investment in further education and training.

BizWorld.org Career Exploration Worksheet (Grades 3-5)

Name of Career: _____

Describe this career using sentences and/or a picture:

What are some skills required for this career? What are some important characteristics for people in this career to have?

What education and training is needed for this career?

What is the average salary for someone in this career field?:

1. National average: _____

2. Local average: _____

How do additional degrees or qualifications affect salaries in this field?

After researching this career, I think it is a *good* / *bad* / *unsure* (circle one) fit for me because _____

BizWorld.org Career Exploration Worksheet (Grades 6-8)

Name of career: _____

Description & Responsibilities: _____

What are some skills required for this career? What are some important characteristics for people in this career to have?

What degrees, licenses, or certifications are required for this career?

What is the average salary for someone in this career field?:

1. National average: _____ 2. Local average: _____

Source for salary information: _____

How do additional degrees or qualifications impact salaries in this field?

What are some activities or extracurriculars that you are involved with or interested in that might help build skills needed for this career?

Reflect: Are you interested in pursuing this career? Why or why not?

