CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 7-13 ▲ KEEPING YOUR OPTIONS OPEN

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Students will define a family wage job.
* Students will describe the postsecondary requirements for different family wage jobs.
* Students will list the work they are doing in school to prepare for postsecondary.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* Family Wage Jobs Quiz (Teacher Answer Key included with this lesson)
* Tips for Keeping Your Options Open
* **Computer with internet access** for each student

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Introduce the family wage job.** Ask students what they think a family wage job is. The answer is obvious: it’s a job that pays enough to support a family! But, what does that mean? Ask students to calculate what someone earning the minimum wage would make for one week, one month, or one year of work.

Is that enough to pay rent? Enough to afford a car? Then explain that most jobs that pay more than minimum wage require some level of education or training after high school.

1. **Explore family wage facts.** Distribute the *Family Wage Jobs Quiz* and have students complete the first section, working in small groups. Stop them and check answers – all are true. Discuss why this is the case, and why a college education is important. Then have them complete the second section. To save time, you might want to assign each small group to research one career, and then have the groups share their information, with students completing their own worksheets based on the reports of the other groups. Ask students if they were surprised about what they learned.
2. **Discuss keeping options open.** Students may think they’re a long way from high school – or college – but the work they do today matters. Distribute the *Tips for Keeping Your Options Open* Handout. Review it with students and ask them to share it with their families.

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *Family Wage Jobs Quiz*** with correct answers noted

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

The following resources are helpful for middle school and early high school students to share with their families, to learn more about postsecondary and career options.

* **Education Planner**

[www.educationplanner.org](http://www.educationplanner.org)

* **Mapping your Future**

[www.mappingyourfuture.org](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org)

CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 7-12 STUDENT HANDOUT

FAMILY WAGE JOBS QUIZ

Name

**PART A:** *Answer these questions.* *Give yourself 10 points for every correct answer.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **T or F?** | **Your Score** |
| 1. Most family wage jobs require education or training after high school. | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 1. Just one year of education or training after high school can increase your lifetime earnings. | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 1. On average, college graduates have lower rates of unemployment than high school graduates. | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 1. College graduates have more jobs to choose from. | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **TOTAL SCORE:** | | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

*What did you learn? Take notes on the back of the sheet.*

**PART B:** *Go to Career Ship® and fill in the missing information about each career.* [*www.mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/*](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CAREER** | **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION NEEDED** |
| Construction Carpenter |  |
| Licensed Practical Nurse |  |
| Computer Support Specialist |  |
| Graphic Designer |  |
| Environmental Engineer |  |

CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 7-12 TEACHER HANDOUT

FAMILY WAGE JOBS QUIZ ANSWER KEY

**PART A:** *Answer these questions.* *Give yourself 10 points for every correct answer.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **T or F?** | **Your Score** |
| 1. Most family wage jobs require education or training after high school. | **T** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 1. Just one year of education or training after high school can increase your lifetime earnings. | **T** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 1. On average, college graduates have lower rates of unemployment than high school graduates. | **T** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 1. College graduates have more jobs to choose from. | **T** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **TOTAL SCORE:** | | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

*What did you learn? Take notes on the back of the sheet.*

**PART B:** *Go to Career Ship® and fill in the missing information about each career.* [*www.mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/*](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CAREER** | **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION NEEDED** |
| Construction Carpenter | **Apprenticeship of up to one year.** |
| Licensed Practical Nurse | **1-2 years of training or an Associate’s degree** |
| Computer Support Specialist | **1-2 years of training or an Associate’s degree** |
| Graphic Designer | **4-year Bachelor’s degree (less training may be OK)** |
| Environmental Engineer | **4-year Bachelor’s degree** |

CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 7-12 STUDENT HANDOUT

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR OPTIONS OPEN

*What you do today matters! Your work during middle school and high school will set your path for the future. Here are a few tips to help you keep your options open so that you can achieve your dreams. Share these tips with your family. Check off each one that you can do.*

**WORK HARD IN SCHOOL**

* Attend class every day and make sure you’re prepared.
* Pay attention during class.
* Join in class discussions. Show your teachers what you know!
* Ask questions. If you don’t understand something, be sure to ask about it.
* Keep up with your assignments. Set a schedule for big projects and do a little every day.
* Check your assignments before turning them in to make sure they’re correct.
* Study with a friend or a tutor if you do better working with others.
* Find a quiet, organized place to study.

**GET INVOLVED**

* Join at least one activity at school that interests you.
* Find out if you can volunteer at school – to help a teacher or tutor a younger student.
* Get involved in activities and organizations in your neighborhood.

**EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS**

* Start thinking about what you’d like to do when you grow up.
* Learn about career possibilities.
* Read something every day: newspapers, blogs, books, or magazines.
* Talk with your family and your advisor about your goals and dreams for your career.

**LEARN HOW TO GET FROM HERE… TO YOUR FUTURE**

Here are a few web sites that will help you plan the steps you should take between now and your high school graduation. Explore these sites on your own or with your family.

* **Education Planner.** You can take a quiz about your learning style and personality type, learn about interesting careers, and find out what education you’ll need: [www.educationplanner.org](http://www.educationplanner.org).
* **Mapping Your Future.** With this site, you can play “Show Me the Future,” and learn what you’ll need to do to get from here to there: [www.mappingyourfuture.org](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org).