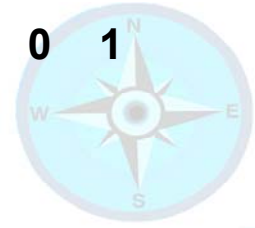

N A V I G A T I O N 1 0 1

GRADE: 8

LESSON: 8

THEME: EXPLORING CAREERS



LESSON GOALS:

- Help students explore their career interests and aptitudes and learn about career pathways.
- Discuss the connections between student's interests and educational needs.

NOTE: *This lesson is designed so that students take a career assessment **prior to** this lesson.*

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What are my interests?
- What should I do?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **Aptitude or Career Assessment** (*results for each student*)
- **Career Pathways Introduction** (*final page of this lesson plan – share with parents too*)

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

1. **Explore students' interests.** By this point in middle school, students should have taken several interest, aptitude, and career exploration assessments. What have these tools told your students about their personalities – about who they are? Have their interests changed over the last several years? Why? Do they agree with what these assessments have told them? (*5-10 minutes*)
2. **Discuss the connection between interests and careers.** What did your students learn from their interest inventory about possible careers? How does this information compare with career exploration exercises they completed during 6th and 7th grade? Are they surprised? Do any of these careers sound interesting to them? Why or why not? You might want to break students into small groups to discuss what they've learned about career interests. (*5-10 minutes*)
3. **Introduce career pathways.** Students discussed career pathways briefly when setting their Citizen goals in Lesson 4. Distribute the **Career Pathways Introduction** handout and review the pathways with your students. Which pathway sounds interesting to each student? Why? How do the pathways relate to the interest assessments they've completed? (*5 minutes*)

STUDENT PRODUCTS:

- **Career or Interest Assessment or Inventory.** Each student should have completed an interest assessment or career inventory. File results in their portfolios.



CAREER PATHWAYS INTRODUCTION



What do you want to do? One way to answer that question is to select a **Career Pathway**. Career pathways are groups of jobs that are based on similar interests, skills, and abilities.*

CAREER PATHWAY	CAREER FOCUS	MORE INFORMATION	SAMPLE JOBS
Agriculture, Science, and Natural Resources	Working with and managing resources in the natural world.	Agriculture and Natural Resources work is often done in open outdoor spaces. Many people work 50 hours or more each week. Educational requirements vary.	Farmer/Rancher Fisherman Forest Ranger Geologist Surveyor Timber Harvester Veterinarian
Art, Media, Communications, and Design	Using ideas and information to communicate with people.	Communications professions are very competitive. Creativity, reading, writing, and critical thinking are important skills. Educational requirements vary.	Actor Director Graphic Designer Journalist Librarian Playwright Spokesperson
Business, Management, and Finance	Working with data, numbers, and people in the business world.	Management professionals usually work in offices with computers, budgets, and accounts. These jobs often require a two- or four-year college degree.	Accountant Business Owner Office Manager Salesperson Secretary Stock Broker Store Manager
Education, Social, and Health Services	Working to help people and solve social problems.	Human services workers need excellent communication skills to work with different types of people. Educational requirements vary.	Cosmetologist Doctor Firefighter Police Officer Social Worker Teacher Travel Agent
Engineering, Science, and Technology	Working with objects, data, and ideas to create, move, change, operate, or build things.	Science and technology workers design buildings, improve technology, and conduct scientific research. Workers may also operate heavy equipment. Educational requirements vary.	Air Traffic Controller Architect Computer Scientist Electrician Engineer HVAC Technician Mechanic

*From Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, "Getting Ready for College & Careers," Washington GEAR UP Project



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