

What Do You Know About Careers?

College and Career Connections

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Grade Level	7th – 8th Grade	**Time Frame**	100 minutes
Subject	Financial Literacy, Social Studies	**Duration**	2 class periods
Course	Personal Financial Literacy		

Essential Question

How do you find a career you are interested in? What is the best way to explore careers?

Summary

This lesson introduces students to career clusters and their usefulness for exploring a variety of careers.

Snapshot

Engage

Students take a short quiz to gauge what they know about careers and employment.

Explore

Through a Collective Brain Dump activity, students brainstorm careers that might fall into the Health career cluster.

Explain

Students form groups and explore the variety of jobs in each of the 16 career clusters by creating a group Card Sort.

Extend

Students evaluate their Card Sort game and invite another group to play it.

Evaluate

The Card Sort creation, graphic organizer, and rubric activity all serve as assessments for this lesson.

Standards

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards - Reading (6-12)

CLR301: Locate simple details at the sentence and paragraph level in somewhat challenging passages
CLR302: Draw simple logical conclusions in somewhat challenging passages
WME402: Interpret most words and phrases as they are used in somewhat challenging passages, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings

Oklahoma Academic Standards (Personal Financial Literacy (7th through 12th grade))

PFL.1.1: Using decision-making models, evaluate how career choices, educational/vocational preparation, skills, and entrepreneurship affect income and standard of living (e.g., postsecondary degree/ certification, needs versus wants, and the ability to live on less than you earn).

Attachments

- Card Sort Rubric and Reflection - Spanish.docx
- Card Sort Rubric and Reflection - Spanish.pdf
- Card Sort Rubric and Reflection.docx
- Card Sort Rubric and Reflection.pdf
- Career Cluster Card Sort Set.pdf
- Career Cluster Organizer - Spanish.docx
- Career Cluster Organizer - Spanish.pdf
- Career Cluster Organizer.docx
- Career Cluster Organizer.pdf
- Career Clusters.pdf
- Lesson Slides—What Do You Know About Careers.pptx
- What do you know about careers quiz - Spanish.docx
- What do you know about careers quiz.docx

Materials

- Lesson Slides (attached)
- Career Clusters group organizer (attached)
- What do you know about careers student quiz (attached)
- Career Cluster handout (attached)
- Card Sort sets (attached; one set per group of four students)
- Card Sort Rubric (attached)
- Student access to internet and devices
- Index cards, eight for each student in the class

10 minutes

Engage

Using the attached **Lesson Slides**, show **slides 2–3**, which include the title and essential questions for this lesson. Ask students to get out a sheet of notebook paper and number 1 through 4. Tell students that we will explore what they know about careers.

Go through **slides 4–7**. On each slide, read the question aloud and allow students time to choose an answer.

Once students have completed the four questions, have them compare their answers with an Elbow Partner. Allow students to discuss their answers and change any if they believe their partner might have a better answer. Once partners have discussed their answers, share correct answers and see how the class did as a whole.

Answers

1. D. All of the professions listed are critical needs for Oklahoma.
2. C. Between 127 and 129 million people are employed in the United States as of November 2018.
3. D. More than 800 million different careers are identified by the Department of Labor.
4. A. Career clusters are probably the best way to explore a variety of careers in a short amount of time.

10 minutes

Explore

From question 4, transition the class to a discussion of career clusters. Career clusters are used by the U.S. Department of Labor, the nation's source of labor and employment information, to categorize its 867 defined occupations. Show **slide 8** for a definition of career clusters.

Students will participate in a K20 strategy called Collective Brain Dump. Display **slide 9** and ask students to turn their notebook paper to the back side. In 1 minute, brainstorm as many different jobs as possible that might be listed in the career cluster of Health. A timer is embedded on the slide that you can use to time the activity.

Display **slide 10**. Ask students to find two other students to work with or assign students to groups of three. In each group, students should compare the number of jobs that each listed and find the total among the three lists. Duplicate jobs count only ONCE. For example, if all three students listed "doctor," it would count as only one entry. Ask groups to share their total number and to share out some of the jobs that might be found in this cluster.

50 minutes

Explain

Teacher's Note: Card Sort Preparation

Before beginning this part of the lesson, prepare the Card Sort activity. Using the attached **Card Sort sets**, print them on color cardstock or heavyweight paper and then cut into 16 individual cards. You can place the card sets in plastic baggies. You need one card sort set for every four students.

Now that students have some idea of the reason for career clusters, pass out the attached **Career Cluster** handout. Explain that there are 16 career clusters and within each cluster there are job pathways that feature similar skills and products. Go over the cluster names and have students guess what jobs might be associated with some of the pathways (subgroups) in the handout.

Assign students to groups of four. Pass out one graphic organizer and one Card Sort set to each group. Each card has the name of a career cluster, sixteen in all. Give each student within the group eight index cards. Tell groups that they will work together to find two jobs for each cluster, making a total of 32 job cards.

Have students write their name on each of their eight cards in the upper right corner. Students should individually fill out their eight index cards with a job listed on one side of the index card and a brief explanation of the job in their own words on the back side of the index card. They also add the median salary and education needed to obtain that job. They are to add their cards to the card sort set and also list the jobs they investigated on the group's **Card Sort graphic organizer**. Students will need internet access and devices to research the jobs for each cluster. The group should find two jobs that represent each cluster, 32 jobs in all.

See **slides 11–12** for group directions. All students should use the Bureau of Labor Statistics Career Outlook page for research: https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/career-clusters.htm.

Have groups place all completed index cards in the Card Sort set and turn in their completed career cluster organizer, which acts as an answer key for their Card Sort.

30 minutes

Extend

After each group has completed its Card Sort set, pass out the attached **Card Sort Rubric**. Have groups evaluate their Card Sorts and their group effort in producing the Card Sorts (see **slide 13**). The self-evaluation rubric can serve as a summative assessment of their work. Give students the opportunity to correct any errors in their card sort that they may see or realize through this rubric activity. You can use their self-evaluation for grading purposes, if needed.

After groups have assessed their own Card Sorts, allow time for each group to play another group's Card Sort and give verbal feedback to that group about how the game went. The graphic organizer for each group's Card Sort can serve as an answer key if students cannot figure out the cluster in which a job might belong.

Evaluate

The group graphic organizer and individual index cards from the Card Sort will serve as assessments for this lesson. The completed rubric can also serve as an assessment for the card sort project.

Resources

- Advance Career Tech Education. (n.d.). Career clusters. https://www.careertech.org/sites/default/files/CareerClustersPathways.pdf
- Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2018). BLS career info by clusters. https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/career-clusters.htm
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Card sort. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/d9908066f654727934df7bf4f506976b
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Collective brain dump. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/baee4e90c5fa1a7060ca04dd8b00450e
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Elbow partners. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/ccc07ea2d6099763c2dbc9d05b00c4b4