

# Career Exploration Virtual Field Trip

## TEACHER'S GUIDE

**Grades:** 6-8

**Subjects:** Special Education Career Exploration



**Purpose:** This guide contains information on teacher preparation for the event and a set of discussion questions for grade levels 6-8, which can be used after the Virtual Field Trip. It also contains links to resources and other resources ranging from videos, activities, interest surveys, and games. In the guide, you will find a handout that students can fill out before, during, and after the virtual field trip. At the end of the handout, there will be an outline of notes on the career videos to check discussion questions.

**Description:** Join 13 business owners and workers as they discuss their careers. While examining the different professions, we will learn why they chose them, what skills they needed to get in school, and why they love their jobs.

Exploring these different employment careers will help students understand why people choose their career tracks and what education or training might be needed. Students will have a better understanding of what their interests might be.

### **Standards:**

Grades 6-8: Students will:

- MC1. Identify the relationship between course content, educational achievement, and career choices.
- MC2. Identify personal preferences, skills, and interests that influence career choices and success.
- MC3. Understand the effect of career choices on the quality of life.
- MC4. Understand that behaviors such as punctuality, courtesy, proper dress and language, and hard work are essential to success in the job market.
- MC5. Demonstrate understanding of the education and training needed to achieve career goals.
- MC6. Demonstrate employability skills such as individual initiative, teamwork, problem-solving, organization, and communication.
- MC7. Use research skills to locate, evaluate, and interpret career and educational information.
- MC8. Demonstrate awareness of educational, vocational, and technical training opportunities available in high school.

**Discussion Questions:** (Answers will vary depending on the student. Please see Teacher Notes on Career Videos below for answers.)

1. After watching all 13 career videos, which job appealed to you the most?
2. What skills do you need to have for this job?
3. Is there anything you should be doing in school for this job?
4. What advice did they give you about the job?
5. What job surprised you the most after learning about it?
6. Is there a job you are interested in now after learning more about it? What is the job and why?
7. Is there a job you would like to learn more about that was not in this virtual field trip?

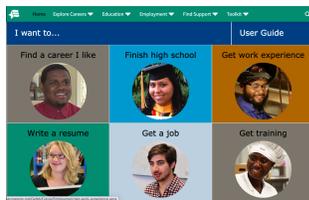
## Related Career Exploration Resources:



Virginia Education Wizard  
By: Virginia Department of Education

A comprehensive career and college planning website that provides students with the ability to assess their skills and explore associated career clusters; find specific occupations in demand and the top employers within their local area and other regions of Virginia; explore public and private colleges and universities throughout Virginia based on various “fit” factors and save the results; prepare for college admission and attendance, and build resumes and prepare for interviews. **The Wizard also contains the electronic Academic and Career plan for students.**

<https://www.vawizard.org/wizard/careerHomePage>



Career One Stop: your source for career exploration, training, and jobs  
By: U.S. Department of Labor

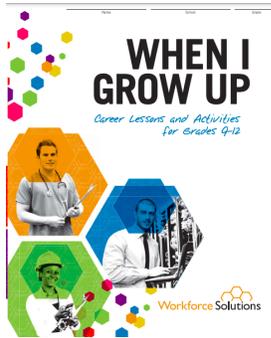
<https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/default.aspx?frd=true>



Career Cluster Interest Survey  
By: Minnesota State CAREERwise

Everyone has a different way of describing themselves and what they like to do. This survey lets you rate activities you enjoy, your personal qualities, and school subjects you like. Then you can see which career clusters are a match for your interests.

<https://careerwise.minnstate.edu/careers/clusterSurvey?do=0>



When I Grow Up Workbook  
By: Workforce Solutions

Career lessons and activities for grades 9-12

[https://www.wrksolutions.com/Documents/WhenIGrowUp/WIGU\\_PDF/High-School/WIGU-High-School-WorkBook.pdf](https://www.wrksolutions.com/Documents/WhenIGrowUp/WIGU_PDF/High-School/WIGU-High-School-WorkBook.pdf)



50 Videos for Career Path Exploration  
By: KQED

<https://www.kqed.org/education/18675/50-videos-for-career-path-explorations>

### Other Related Resources:



TEDxYouth: How to Find Your Passion and Make it Your Job  
By: Emma Rosen

[https://www.ted.com/talks/emma\\_rosen\\_how\\_to\\_find\\_your\\_passion\\_and\\_make\\_it\\_your\\_job](https://www.ted.com/talks/emma_rosen_how_to_find_your_passion_and_make_it_your_job)



Claim Your Future Game

<https://fame.claimyourfuture.org/student-registration/>



Agricultural Career Games

<http://www.myamericanfarm.org/games/themes/ag-careers>



## Career Explorations

By: KnowItAll.org

Career education and job shadowing videos.

<https://www.knowitall.org/collections/career-explorations>

## **Teacher Notes on Career Videos**

### **Video #1: Construction Business**

- I. Where did you learn your skills?
  - A. Family, online resources
- II. What are your daily duties?
  - A. Ordering, delivering, installing materials
  - B. Scheduling work contractors
  - C. Everything from foundation to framing
- III. What should I learn in school for this job?
  - A. Math
  - B. Pay attention to details, be on time, be a good student
  - C. Take CTE classes
  - D. Get involved in clubs: welding, woodworking, woodshop
- IV. What are the benefits of working in construction?
  - A. Meeting and working with new and different people
  - B. Satisfaction of knowing a trade/craft/being skilled
  - C. Can become a Journeyman/Master
  - D. Being outside and working with your hands
- V. How do you get trained for this job?
  - A. On-the-job training
  - B. Trade classes in high school
  - C. Job training college programs
- VI. What do you wish people knew about a construction job?
  - A. Women can do it; lots of opportunities
  - B. Construction is over 30 trades
  - C. Construction is a career

### **Video #2: Jewelry Designer**

- I. What made you start designing jewelry?
  - A. Liked to do it as a hobby as a kid
- II. How did you learn to make jewelry?
  - A. Learned as a kid through trial and error
  - B. Had a passion for it
- III. What are some job duties for your business?
  - A. Owning the business means there are lots of jobs: accountant, marketing, source materials, making jewelry, selling jewelry
- IV. How do you learn the skills to be an entrepreneur?
  - A. Shadow other business owners and other people in your industry
  - B. Watch Youtube videos

- C. Learn the skills yourself; you have to experience them
- V. What are the risks of owning your own business?
  - A. Since you are on your own, there are no sick days, no vacation days
  - B. No health insurance
  - C. You are trying to meet the financial needs of your life
  - D. With great risk comes great reward
    - 1. Make your own schedule and work as much as you want.
- VI. Advice to those who want to start their own business
  - A. Follow your passion
  - B. Find something to do that makes you lose track of time
  - C. Work hard

### **Video #3 Food Truck Owner**

- I. Why did you start your own business?
  - A. Self-motivated; Didn't fit in at other jobs
- II. How did you learn the skills needed to open a food truck?
  - A. Cooking at home and experimenting
  - B. YouTube videos
  - C. Many small kitchen jobs
- III. What does a typical day look like?
  - A. 5am wake up, cleaning, shopping, prepping, paperwork
- IV. How did you get started?
  - A. Started small with a hot dog cart that cost \$6,000 that I saved from working small jobs.
- V. What advice would you give to students?
  - A. Don't stop. I have been discouraged 1000 times and wanted to quit, but I kept pushing through. Keep going.

### **Video #4 Personal Fitness/Gym Owner**

- I. What are your daily duties?
  - A. Programming: creating classes and programs for clients
  - B. Cleaning and sanitizing
  - C. Finances, purchases, equipment maintenance
- II. How can a student become a fitness trainer?
  - A. Get certifications
  - B. Get hands-on experience
- III. What classes should a student take in high school?
  - A. Speech/communications courses because you are dealing with clients
  - B. Physiology, Kinesiology, Exercise Science- anything having to do with the body
  - C. Science-based classes

- D. Business classes; so you know how to run your own business
- IV. What advice would you give to students?
  - A. Try different things; work other jobs; find out what you like
  - B. Take your studies in school seriously; be a good student
  - C. Find out what kind of learner you are so you can do your best
  - D. Look at community colleges before universities so you can try things before they cost you a lot of money.

### **Video #5 PBM Sprayers/Manufacturing**

- I. How did you know you wanted to go into manufacturing?
  - A. Strong interest in building and developing things
  - B. Hobbies
- II. What is your favorite thing about manufacturing?
  - A. Seeing your idea come to life from start to finish
- III. What got you interested in manufacturing?
  - A. High school engineering program/engineering tools
  - B. Internship
  - C. Fast-paced atmosphere
- IV. What was your college degree?
  - A. Studio Arts: welding, metal casting, fabrication
  - B. Engineering- hands-on projects
- V. What is the best way to get started in manufacturing?
  - A. Shop classes
  - B. Work on bicycles and cars
  - C. Put things together: Understand and read instructions
  - D. Show initiative
- VI. Where did you learn your skills?
  - A. On-the-job training
- VII. What should students do if they want to get into manufacturing?
  - A. Join shop classes/clubs at school
  - B. Pay attention to details
  - C. Look for opportunities; easily find jobs on google
  - D. Take an entry-level job
  - E. Take a trade program for welding, machining, or fabrication

### **Video #6 Air Spray/Aviation**

- I. What interested you in your STEM career?
  - A. Liked to tinker and work on bicycles and cars
  - B. Always had a mechanical interest and liked hands-on projects
  - C. Started working on small airplanes

- D. Interested in how things work, interest in manufacturing and fabricating
- II. What interested you in Aviation?
  - A. Interest in planes and flying
  - B. Military
  - C. Wanted to find a career that was detail-oriented/safety-focused
  - D. Wanted to be an expert
- III. What is your favorite part of working for Air Spray?
  - A. Working with people with similar interests
  - B. Working with aircraft
  - C. Working with my hands
- IV. What advice would you give to students?
  - A. Go out and get as much experience as you can; try different things
  - B. Go to local airports and ask questions
  - C. Math Classes
  - D. Pursue your interests
  - E. Go to Community Colleges/Technical Colleges

#### **Video #7 Tink Manufacturing**

- I. What is the best way to get started in manufacturing?
  - A. Find an entry-level job
  - B. Look at college programs
- II. What types of machines do you work with?
  - A. Saws, presses, mills, brakes, plasma table, welding, robots
- III. How did you learn your skills?
  - A. Shop classes in high school
- IV. What education is needed for manufacturing?
  - A. Education is not the most important; Experience level is most important
    - 1. Start at an entry-level position and work your way up
- V. What do you want students to know about manufacturing?
  - A. Huge potential for jobs
  - B. Jobs are abundant and varied
- VI. What is the best way to get started in manufacturing?
  - A. Take any class in the Industrial Arts; drawing and drafting
  - B. Math classes- must be good with numbers
  - C. Make things, never stop learning
  - D. Get a job at a wrecking yard
  - E. Entry-level jobs
    - 1. Will give you on-the-job training
    - 2. Need to have a good attitude and be ready to learn

### **Video #8 Packing Facility**

- I. What was your career path to the packing facility?
  - A. Business classes
  - B. Entry-level position-gives you the opportunity to try out different jobs
- II. What skills are needed to work as a mechanic?
  - A. To know about mechanics.
  - B. Curiosity; asking how things work
  - C. Good eye for detail
  - D. Basic math skills
  - E. Ability to do mental work
- III. What opportunities are there for working as a mechanic or in a packing facility?
  - A. Lots of different jobs: conveyors, handlers, packers, robots
  - B. Jobs in all kinds of areas
  - C. Always looking for good trainees and technicians

### **Video #9 Chef**

- I. What does your typical day look like?
  - A. Up early to create a menu, prep list, shop, prep food, cook, clean, etc.
  - B. Lots of collaboration with other people
- II. What do you love about being a chef?
  - A. Fun; not your typical day
  - B. Not the best hours or pay; but it is a passion
  - C. Working with farmers
  - D. Finding out new ways to make food
  - E. Rewarding but hard work
- III. What is the best way to get a job working in a restaurant?
  - A. Be friendly, punctual, present well
  - B. Be able to talk about yourself
- IV. Top tips of being a chef
  - A. Learn the basics of cooking and being in a kitchen
  - B. Be prepared to work hard and for long periods

### **Video #10 Teacher**

- I. What does your typical day look like?
  - A. Arrive an hour early before students arrive to get ready for the day
  - B. Busy all day with activities with the children
  - C. Never finishes or ends. There is always something to do.
- II. What do you need to be a teacher?
  - A. Enthusiasm
  - B. Lots of energy

- C. Passion for learning
  - D. Be organized
  - E. Be a good communicator
  - F. Always be learning
- III. What are three tips for students who want to become a teacher?
- A. Try to do a work placement in a school to work with children and see if you like it.
  - B. Try coaching a children's sport for the experience
  - C. Make sure you like working with children; babysit in your local area.

### **Video #11 VR Animator**

- I. What were the interests that made you want to be a VR Animator?
- A. Interests in film (movies) and animation
- II. What do you like about being a VR Animator?
- A. Always learning
  - B. Days and duties vary depending on the movie we are working on
- III. How can a student learn how to be a VR Animator?
- A. Learn through the internet
  - B. Learn photoshop
  - C. Learn 3D programs
- IV. What are three tips for students who want to become VR Animators?
- A. Learn to draw and show people
  - B. Math skills
  - C. Learn to make pictures with your computer

### **Video #12 Astrophysicist/Astronomy**

- I. What is it like to be an Astrophysicist?
- A. It feels like being a detective finding out the mysteries of the universe.
- II. What does a typical day look like?
- A. Meetings with colleagues and other scientists
  - B. Doing math equations
  - C. Coding and programming
  - D. Using a telescope
- III. What do you like about being an astrophysicist?
- A. Get to work with different people
  - B. Get to talk about my passion
  - C. Get to use telescopes
  - D. It is challenging work
  - E. Get to use math

- IV. What advice would you give to students who want to be Astrophysicists or work in astronomy?
  - A. Believe in your ability
  - B. Ask for help
  - C. Continue to learn
- V. What are three tips for students who want to become Astrophysicists?
  - A. Embrace math
  - B. Learn to code; start with scratch, end in python
  - C. Explore the universe; get to know what is out there

**Video #13 Electrician**

- I. What do you like about being an electrician?
  - A. Learning different things and always learning
  - B. Working at a variety of sites: commercial sites, hospitals, schools, industrial projects, traffic lights
  - C. Working with different people
  - D. Many different jobs
    - 1. A foreman running jobs
    - 2. Teaching other electricians
    - 3. Inspections
- II. What must electricians know?
  - A. Electric code
  - B. How to use the equipment correctly
  - C. Have quality workmanship
  - D. Must make it safe: no fire and shock hazards
- III. What is the best way to get started as an electrician?
  - A. Take advanced math classes
  - B. Take sciences classes like physics
  - C. Get work experience
  - D. Be willing to work, be coachable, and have a good attitude
  - E. Find an apprenticeship: they will teach you the skills you need to know