

Career Exploration: 7th - 9th Grade Series

Lesson 1: Identifying Career Opportunities

Estimated Lesson Length:	50-90 minutes
Recommended Grades:	7-9th grade
Related LifeKnowledge Lesson:	LifeKnowledge MS 27
	
Objective(s): The student will be able to:	
✓ Identify agricultural careers related to the current agricultural area of study. ✓ Explain relationships between related careers and appropriate FFA Career Development Event opportunities.	
Materials, Supplies, Equipment, References and Other Resources:	
Class Text (For Technical Subject Area) FFA Manuals and FFA Student Handbooks (One handbook and manual for each pair of students)	

Lesson Plan:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
1. Interest Approach: Refreshing prior learning.	<i>Students will need paper and pen/pencil for this step. After completing attendance and announcements, ask the students to independently and quietly create their own top ten list highlighting the most important concepts in the unit they have been studying in class. Allow 5-7 minutes for them to compile their list.</i> At the end of 5-7 minutes, ask the students to work in pairs to expand each of their lists. Allow 5-7 minutes for them to share and build their combined lists. Ask each group to select the top three items on their list and share them when called. If another group shares one on their list they need to select a new item to share. Work through each group allowing the class to have the prior content fresh in their minds. This should take approximately 5 minutes.	15-20 minutes
2. Create a related career list	The students will now use the refreshed content and other resources such as textbooks and periodicals to create an A to Z related agricultural career list. The first step will be for them to write the letters of the alphabet on a ruled paper in their notebook. Put one letter on each line. The goal is to create a list of careers related to the content area they have been covering. For example, if they were covering horticulture, they might use Landscape Designer for "L" and Golf Course Superintendent for "G." Explain that they will receive 3 points for the first career named for each letter and one additional point for each additional career for that letter. You and the class will determine if the career matches the content well enough to receive points. <i>While the students are working on this project, write the alphabet on the writing surface in the room. Make sure to leave enough space for the students to write in the careers on their lists.</i>	10-15 minutes

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Lesson Plan cont.:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
3. Share related career lists	<i>Ask for a volunteer to be your recorder.</i> Each student will share their list as the recorder writes the careers on the writing surface. Give the class the responsibility to alert you if they question the career's relation to the content area. Congratulate the class on a good list of careers.	10-15 minutes
4. Match Careers to FFA Career Development Events	Explain that one way to build skills for these careers is participation in FFA Career Development Events. The students will work in pairs to identify Career Development Events that match the careers on their list. They will need to write the name of the Career Development Event and the Career Development Event they believe it matches at the bottom of their career list. Provide each pair of students a copy of the FFA Manual and FFA Student Handbook for this activity. <i>Note: For 7th and 8th grade students, you may need to provide additional explanation of career development events. They are contests where students can show off their skills developed through agricultural education. Instruct them to review the section of the FFA Manual and Student Handbook that explain all of the events.</i>	10-15 Minutes
5. Summary, review and projects to collect	Thank the students for their work and collect career lists from each student.	5-10 minutes