

Career Exploration: 7th - 9th Grade Series

Lesson 2: Researching Related Careers

Estimated Lesson Length:	1, 50 minute class period
Recommended Grades:	7-9th grade
Related LifeKnowledge Lesson:	LifeKnowledge MS 29
Objective(s): The student will be able to:	
✓ Select a career of interest in the current content unit of study. ✓ Explain the education required, salary range, necessary skills and employment opportunities for their career of interest. ✓ Prepare a brief report on the on their career of interest.	
Materials, Supplies, Equipment, References and Other Resources:	
Course textbook Computers with Internet access to www.ffa.org or local career exploration programs. A-Z Career lists from prior day's lesson	

Lesson Plan:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
1. Interest approach:	<i>Review prior day. Distribute Each Student's A-Z Career list that they created in the prior lesson. After completing attendance and announcements, remind the students of the career list they created the day before. Ask them to share their favorite examples from the list generated. After a few examples let them know that today they will get to explore their favorites in greater depth!</i> <i>Note: If this lesson is being used separately from Career Exploration 7-9 – Lesson 1, begin by having the students brainstorm a list of careers related to the unit of study the class is currently learning.</i>	5 minutes
2. Select careers and defend your choices	Now that they know where you are headed, ask the students to review their list and circle their top ten choices of careers that interest them. Explain that they will be defending these choices so they need to have sound reasons for selecting each career. Allow three (3) minutes for them to make their choices and prepare their defense. <i>At the conclusion of the three minutes, say: Now that you have selected your top ten it is time to defend and rank them. When I say "Defend" you will quickly and quietly find a partner beside you and share your list of choices. Allow your partner to help rank your list based on what they know about you and how well you defended that career on your list. You will provide the same guidance to them. You will have five (5) minutes to discuss, defend and rank each partner's list. What questions do you have? If there are none, start the activity with the cue word: "Defend"</i> <i>While the pairs are working write the following categories on the writing surface in the room.</i> Career name: Career cluster: General career information: Salary: Education required: Skills necessary:	10 minutes

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Lesson Plan cont.:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
3. Hypothesize career answers	Now that the students have a ranked list of careers they are interested in, ask them to use a blank sheet of paper to copy the set of questions on the writing surface three times. They need to leave space between each set of questions. They will also need to draw a vertical line from the top to the bottom of the page to the right of the questions, halfway between the question and the right side of the page, creating two columns for answers. <i>You may need to draw an example line on the writing surface to help them understand where to place it.</i> With the page prepared, they need to now write in the names of their top three career choices from the list in the Career Name: blank. Then in the answer area closest to the questions, ask them to hypothesize answers to each question. They need to label this column, "I believe..." Remind them that even if they are not sure of the correct answer to take an educated guess. Allow five (5) minutes for them to generate their answers. <i>Note: While they are working on this section, write the process in Step 4 on the writing surface in the room.</i> When the time is complete explain that many times we think a career looks exciting and decide to move in that direction before we know the real story! Have them label the right column of answer space, "The Reality!"	7 minutes
4. Find true career answers	They will use the Ag Career Database created by the National FFA Organization or the school systems Career Exploration Program to find out the reality! Once they have logged on to the computers, instruct them to follow the steps you put on the writing surface: 1. Go to the following website: www.ffa.org 2. Under main menu, find and select Student Members 3. Find and select Careers and Career Explorer 4. You should now be at the Ag Career Database 5. Enter your first Career Name in the blank box beside "Keyword" and click on search 6. Select the career that most closely matches your choice and use the information provided to fill in the blanks in your notes. 7. Repeat from step 5 for each of your top three.	25 minutes
5. Homework – Find job description	If you will be continuing on with this lesson on the following day, share the following homework assignment with the students. They need to bring with them, if possible, a local newspaper or agriculture publication.	1 minute
6. Summary, review and projects to collect	Thank them for the hard work today and collect their A-Z Career List. If you are not continuing in this set of lessons, collect their career research pages. If you are continuing with this set of lessons, have them keep their career research pages in their notebooks for use in tomorrow's lesson.	2 minutes