

THE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Description of Activity: The distribution center is one of the places along the food production chain with the most diversity in careers. From forklift operators to IT professionals to logistics managers, many individuals make these facilities run 24/7. In this activity, students will explore these roles and write a short story about how individuals in these careers help keep the supply chain running.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

After completing these activities, students will ...

1. Research various careers related to distribution, shipping and logistics.
2. Write a creative story to describe what goes on at a distribution center.

SUGGESTED TIME:

65 minutes (*Time requirements may vary based upon student understanding and class schedule.)

RESOURCES/REFERENCES:

1. Culver's Virtual Field Trip Video, <https://AgExplorer.FFA.org/virtual-field-trips/fresh-frozen-custard-careers-from-dairy-to-dish/>
2. Website: AgExplorer, AgExplorer.FFA.org

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. A copy of the "From Warehouse to Window: The Distribution Center" worksheet for each student
2. Internet access to play the videos in real time or embed them in a PowerPoint ahead of time

VOCABULARY:

1. Distribution
2. Supply chain

STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEETS:

Direct access to student activity sheets without lesson plan or answer key for easy upload to a learning management system or printing for classwork.

<https://ffa.box.com/s/0hy40mwnmc0ckzp0vkbyrwcum9iq36qs> (Word)

<https://ffa.box.com/s/bpwsggoyltp2ngcy0g8qnt7iqyfng097> (PDF)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lWFilcq6dP7j-Gd4qu0umYSZQ6wWC87cOlcf4wsWaTE/copy> (Google)

LESSON PLAN:

1. **Bell Ringer:** What do you think is the most efficient way to deliver supplies/products to different locations? Explain your answer.
2. **Introduction:** *Have you ever wondered what happens in the large warehouses you see? Many warehouses are distribution centers for major companies, such as Culver's, ensuring that each restaurant receives everything they need to make the delicious food you expect every time you visit a restaurant location. Today, we are going to take a look inside one distribution center to see the many careers it takes daily to receive ingredients, sort ingredients and ensure they arrive on time to each restaurant. Play the Distribution Center segment from the [Culver's Virtual Field Trip on AgExplorer](#). Have students complete the questions on the Distribution Center section of the Culver's Virtual Field Trip Student Guide.*
3. **Activity:** Each student needs a copy of the "From Warehouse to Window: The Distribution Center" worksheet.
 - a. **Part 1:** Students will use AgExplorer (AgExplorer.FFA.org) to look at the list of careers provided and choose 15 to record how their primary roles and responsibilities are connected to food distribution centers.
 - b. **Part 2:** Students will plan and pre-write for a short story about careers in food distribution. The stories will be written so that young elementary students can understand and learn about food distribution careers.
 - c. **Part 3:** Students will use the sheets provided to write their stories. Along with their stories, they will draw five pictures that help to tell their stories. (Alternatively, you could have students use blank paper to create a picture book instead of using the student activity sheet to write the short story.)
4. **Follow-up:** Have a few student volunteers read their stories aloud to the class or have students share their stories in small groups. Students could also visit local elementary school classrooms and read their stories to the students. You may consider including these as part of a larger agricultural literacy outreach to local elementary schools.
5. **Optional – Extended Learning Opportunities (Not factored into time requirement):** Provide a case study challenge in which students are given a scenario and must make decisions about how to best fulfill orders and deliver products to different locations from a single distribution center.
6. **Exit Ticket:** What surprised you the most about the food distribution process? Why?

Name: _____

Aligned to the following standards: AG5; AG-FD4; CS.05; FPP.04; FFA.PL-A; FFA.PL-C; FFA.PL-H; FFA.CS-M; CCSS.ELA.SL.9-10.2; CCSS.ELA.SL.9-10.1.C; CCSS.ELA.W.9-10.2; CCSS.W.9-10.4; CRP.02; CRP.04; CRP.07;

From Warehouse to Window: The Distribution Center

PART 1

Directions:

Use AgExplorer (AgExplorer.FFA.org) to look at the careers listed below and choose 15 of them to record how their primary roles and responsibilities are connected to food distribution centers. Then, hypothesize what would happen if each career didn't exist within the supply chain.

Automation Technician/Coordinator	Fleet Manager	Food Safety/Quality Assurance Manager
Food Safety Specialist/Quality Control Technician	Forklift Operator	Heavy Duty Equipment Technician
Information Technology (IT) Programmer	Inventory/Stock Specialist	Logistics & Supply Chain Management/Director of Supply Chain
Logistics Specialist	Machine/Equipment Operator	Maintenance/Service Technician
Operations Manager	Process Engineer	Produce Inspector
Quality Assurance Manager	Shift Manager	Shipping Coordinator
Supply Chain Manager	Transportation Manager	Truck Driver
	Warehouse/Facility Manager	

Career 1:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 2:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 3:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?

Name: _____

Career 4:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 5:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 6:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 7:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 8:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 9:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 10:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?

Name: _____

Career 11:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 12:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 13:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 14:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?
Career 15:
How does this career connect to/impact food distribution?
What do you think would happen if this career didn't exist within the supply chain?

1. Why do you think so many different careers are necessary for food distribution?

Name: _____

PART 2

Directions:

In Part 3, you will be writing a short story to explain food distribution careers to younger students. Use the space below for your planning and pre-writing. Decide which careers you want to include in your story, come up with character names and begin brainstorming the flow of your story. You may consider creating a flow chart to map out how the different careers are involved throughout the process.

Short Story Requirements:

- Include at least 10 food distribution careers.
- Write so young elementary students are able to understand.
- Follow a clear storyline highlighting how each career is involved in the food distribution process.
- Incorporate fun elements that will keep young readers engaged.

Name: _____

PART 3

Directions:

Use the space below to write a short story for young elementary students to learn about the food distribution process and the careers that are involved with it. Be sure your story meets all the requirements listed below. In the boxes provided, draw five pictures that help tell your story.

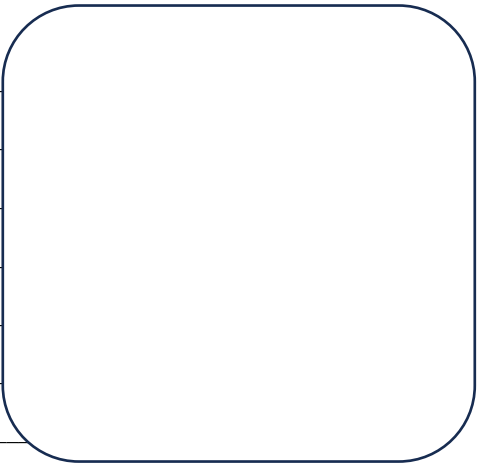
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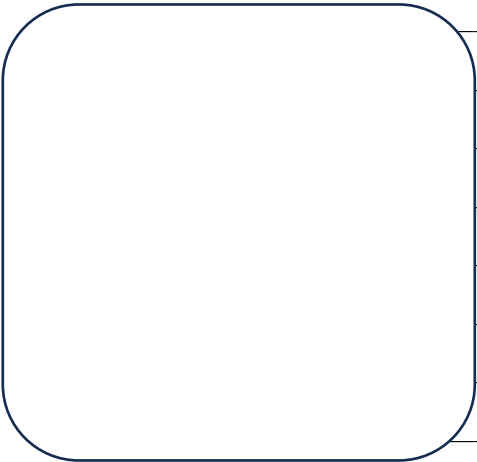
Story Title:



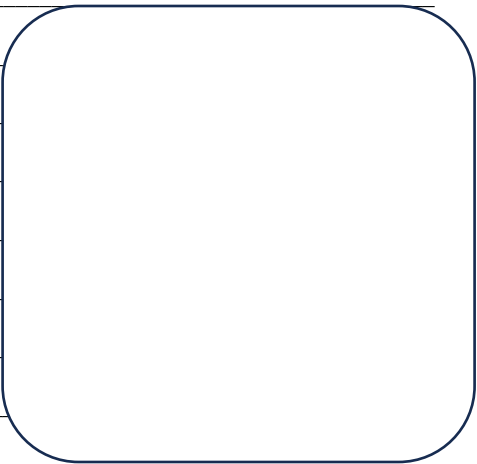
Name: _____



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Reflection Questions:

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