

# EXPLORING CAREER PATHS

Encourage students to think about their future while they build key writing and research skills.

## Standards

### CCSS ELA

#### Grs. 6–8:

- L.4.A Use context clues
- RI.2 Determine central idea
- W.4 Write clearly
- W.6 Use technology to publish writing
- W.7 Conduct research

## Materials

### Activity 1

- Use Your (Job) Words! activity sheet
- Dictionary OR internet

### Activity 2

- Find Your Future Job activity sheet
- *Jobs of the Future* magazine OR internet

### Activity 3

- Interview Your Future Self activity sheet
- *Jobs of the Future* magazine

## Additional Activity Extensions

- Bringing Careers to the Classroom activity: Students interview professionals (bit.ly/jobsfuture2)
- Family Activity Page: Students and families discuss careers (bit.ly/jobsfuture4)
- Spotlight Your Strengths activity: Students write mock résumés for careers that interest them (bit.ly/jobsfuture3)



## ACTIVITY 1 Brushing Up On Career Vocab

**GOAL** Reinforce key career-related vocabulary with students and strengthen reading strategies.

**1. Guide** students to read the text on the **Use Your (Job) Words!** activity sheet and infer the meaning of each vocabulary word.

**2. Prompt** them to research the correct definitions. (Definition for **youth apprenticeships**:

An apprenticeship is a career pathway that provides paid work experience, classroom instruction, and an industry-recognized credential. Youth apprenticeships are designed for high school juniors or seniors to prepare them for success after high school.)

**3. Direct** students to write their vocabulary stories and invite them to share with their classmates.

**4. Give** further details about youth apprenticeships by explaining that they are for teens who are at least 16 years old, and provide multiple pathways after high school: Kids can choose to enroll in college, begin a full-time job, or do a combination of both.

**5. Exit Ticket:** Have students write and hand in a sentence using one of the vocabulary words.

### Answer Key

- 1) job; 2) a career pathway that provides paid work experience and classroom training; 3) money received for work; 4) proof of training or skills; 5) a long-term profession that you train for

### Learning Extensions

- Jobs of the Future magazine and accompanying Learning on the Job activity sheet (bit.ly/jobsfuture1)



## ACTIVITY 2 Researching Hot Jobs of the Future

**GOAL** Introduce students to ever-changing career fields through a reading passage, then have them conduct job research.

**1. Invite** students to read the **Find Your Future Job** activity sheet. Discuss responses.

**2. Have** students select a career to research. Direct

them to the Jobs of the Future magazine (bit.ly/jobsfuture1) and/or these resources from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

- mynextmove.org
- bls.gov/ooh

**3. Exit Ticket:** Have students write down and hand in one fact from their research and cite their source.

### Answer Key

- 1) New career fields emerge over time.  
2) This section gives an example of a new career field that didn't exist a few decades ago but is now important and in demand.  
3–4) Answers will vary.

### Learning Extensions

- Jobs Then Versus Now lesson (bit.ly/jobsfuture2)
- Find Your “Right Now” Job activity sheet (bit.ly/jobsfuture3) paired with these resources for student research:
  - apprenticeship.gov/educators/high-school-and-middle-school
  - bls.gov/careeroutlook/department/youre-a-what.htm
  - bls.gov/careeroutlook/department/interview.htm
- Plot Your Career Path research activity sheet (bit.ly/jobsfuture3)



## ACTIVITY 3 Writing an Interview with Your Future Self

**GOAL** Have students imagine a career goal, then write a Q&A with their future selves about why they chose that career and how they got there.

**1. Review** the structure of an interview with students. Examine the apprentice interviews in the Jobs of the Future magazine (bit.ly/jobsfuture1) as examples. Note the number of interview questions that are open-ended and start with words like “what,” “why,” and “how.”

**2. Have** students use the **Interview Your Future Self** activity sheet to plan and write an interview.

**3. Invite** students to share their completed interviews with their classmates.