

LESSON | BUILDING A ROAD MAP

Students don't have to wait until they are adults to start cultivating a career path—help them envision their future now with a hands-on creative project.

Objective

Students will define and organize career skills and interests using a graphic, and apply their learning to create a dream board project.

Time

45–75 minutes

Materials

- Make Your Own Dream Board! activity sheet
- poster board
- scissors
- glue
- tape
- markers
- magazines, newspapers



Instructions

1 Tell students that they possess some skills that they can use in future jobs and apprenticeships. Ask them to reflect on what those skills may be.

2 Explain that hiring managers want job candidates with hard skills and soft skills. Define hard skills as job-specific skills and knowledge obtained through school or work experience like apprenticeships (e.g., proficiency in Spanish, coding, operating specific machines).

3 Define soft skills as transferable skills related to behaviors that focus on interacting effectively with people professionally. Emphasize how research shows that soft skills such as adaptability, the ability to work in teams, and decision-making are key to success in almost every workplace.

4 Hold a class discussion reflecting on the skills students learned were required in the careers, jobs, and apprenticeships they researched in the Find Your “Right Now” Job activity. Have them elaborate on why these skills are important and identify soft skills that would support each career.

5 Ask students to brainstorm jobs that kids their age can do now to support future jobs and careers. Chart these on the board, then work as a class to come up with skills that match each job.

6 Distribute the Make Your Own Dream Board! activity sheet and instruct students to prepare to build their dream boards by identifying their skills and interests. Have students gather in pairs or groups to discuss discoveries they've made.

7 Provide time for students to complete their culminating project: creating a dream board spotlighting their top skills and interests as well as titles of possible jobs and careers. Share completed dream boards during a gallery walk.

Extension

Using the completed Find Your “Right Now” Job sheets, have students hold mock interviews with one another, role-playing how they would present marketable qualities to a hiring manager. Have them draw from work experience gained through a hypothetical job or a youth apprenticeship.

Name _____

MAKE YOUR OWN DREAM BOARD!

This is your planning sheet for developing an inspirational collage that reflects your vision for the future. (Create your collage on separate paper or a poster board.)

STEP 1

- In the first column, write skills that you've relied on while tackling chores at home and responsibilities at school. Include skills you've gained from small jobs or community service you've done so far!
- In the second column, write down things you love to do or would like to learn more about.

SKILLS (SOFT AND HARD)	INTERESTS AND PASSIONS



STEP 2

- Write two or three career-related goals, including jobs that seem like a good fit and apprenticeships you'd like to explore.
- Use magazines, newspapers, or the internet to find images that represent your goals or inspire you in some way.



STEP 3

- Brainstorm words that help motivate you to achieve your goals. In addition to your skills and passions, these words could include job titles, fields of interest, or career-related words you find empowering.
- Cut or print out words, or handwrite them.

STEP 4

Build your dream board by creating an inspiring collage of words and images on your poster board.