Career & College Readiness Lesson Plans
Matchmaking: Interests & Careers

Self-knowledge

Grade Level 9

Overview

Students will select and research occupations based on individual interests using the Interest Profiler Assessment on the California CareerZone website. They will utilize the research to create or modify their Career Action Plans on the California Career Center website.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- identify possible occupations to pursue,
- relate occupations to individual interests.

Language Objectives

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Verbally evaluate assessment results to determine possible career choices.
- Write an organized summary of each occupation researched.

Standards Alignment

- California Common Core State Standards: College & Career Readiness Anchor Standards:
  - RL. 2, 4, 7; W. 4; L. 1, 2, 4
- California Career Technical Education Anchor Standards:
  - 3, 10
- California Standards for Career Ready Practice:
  - 1, 3
- National Career Development Guidelines:
  - PS 1, 2, 3; CM 1, 3
- International Society for Technology in Education For Students:
  - 3
- English Language Development Standards:
  - Part 1: 4, 5, 6, 9
  - Part 2: 1, 6
• American School Counselor Association Mindsets & Behaviors
  o M 6; BSM 5

Materials

• Computers with Internet access for students
• Computer with Internet access and projection capability for instructor
• Projector and screen
• Instructor Resources
  • California CareerZone Student Account Information (p. 6)
  • California Career Center “My Stuff” Student Account Information (p. 7)

• Student Handouts
  • California CareerZone Student Account Setup (p. 8)
  • California Career Center “My Stuff” Student Account Setup (p. 9)
  • California CareerZone Interest Profiler (p. 10)
  • Matchmaking: Interests & Careers (pp. 11–12)

• Online Resources
  • Matchmaking: Interests & Careers Start-Up Video
  • California CareerZone
  • California CareerZone Interest Profiler
  • California Career Center “My Stuff” Student Account

Academic Vocabulary

• Career: is the body of work—all jobs, occupations, and life experiences—that a person experiences during his or her lifetime.

• Certificate: is a document that certifies that a person has received specific education or has passed a test or series of tests.

• Job: is a paid position with specific duties, tasks, and responsibilities in a particular place of work (e.g., photographer at Best Pictures).

• Occupation: is a cluster of jobs with common characteristics that require similar skills (e.g., manufacturing and product development).

• Outlook: is the expected rate of growth or decline for a particular occupation in the future.

• Personality traits: are an individual’s habitual patterns of behavior, temperament, and emotion.
• **Wages/Salary**: are fixed, regular payments, usually based on an hourly, daily, or piecework basis, made by an employer to an employee.

**Activity**

Students will complete the California CareerZone Interest Profiler and use the results to complete the Matchmaking: Interests & Careers handout, then they will enter their selected occupations into their “My Stuff” Career Action Plans on the California Career Center website (link in Materials section).

**Getting Ready**

- Review the lesson plan procedures, handouts, and start-up video.
- **California CareerZone**
  - Go to the California CareerZone (link in Materials section), create a student account
    - For instructions on creating a student account, go to the student handout, CareerZone Student Account Setup.
  - When logged into your CareerZone account, complete the Interest Profiler (instructions are in lesson procedures step 4). Be prepared to demonstrate the Interest Profiler to your students.
- **California Career Center**
  - Go to the California Career Center website (link in Materials section), and create a “My Stuff” student account.
    - For instructions on creating a student account, see the student handout, California Career Center “My Stuff” Student Account Setup.
  - When logged into your “My Stuff” student account, go to the Career Action Plan (the link is in the top navigation bar “My Stuff” dropdown menu). Review the directions and video for the Explore Occupations I section. Be prepared to demonstrate to your students how to access the Career Action Plan.

**Lesson Procedures**

1. Introduce the lesson by describing the topic and activity. For a quick introduction, you can show the lesson start-up video (link in Materials section). Ask students what they think is important about exploring occupations they might like to pursue.

2. As part of that discussion, introduce the concept of matching interests to occupations:
• Research shows that people who work in occupations that match their interests are happier.
• Your chances of getting promoted increase if you like the job you’re doing.
• If you enjoy your work, you will feel motivated to keep your job and have a sense of satisfaction in what you do.

Tell students that just like music, movies, and friends, personality traits play a role in the choices they make. The same is true for their careers. For example:

• If you are outgoing and active, you probably wouldn’t be happy sitting behind a desk all day.
• If you are quiet and shy, you probably wouldn’t be happy in a loud, boisterous environment.
• If you like working alone, you most likely wouldn’t be at your best in a team setting.

3. Have students complete the CareerZone's Interest Profiler (link in Materials section); this may take 15–25 minutes. (Students will need an account to save their results.) To assist students in setting up their accounts, distribute the handout, “California CareerZone Student Account Setup”.

4. Distribute the handout, “California CareerZone: Interest Profiler” and review it with your students. Explain that the Interest Profiler determines their interest areas based on their answers to the questions in the profiler.

Walk students through the process of accessing and completing the Interest Profiler using the computer and projector:

a. Go to the California CareerZone website (link in Materials section).

b. Select “Assess Yourself”.

c. On the “Assess Yourself” page, select “Interest Profiler” and follow the directions for completing the assessment and viewing occupations.

5. Distribute the handout, “Matchmaking: Interests & Careers”.

• Have students use their Interest Profiler occupational results to complete the handout.

6. Discuss the completed handout with the class. Discussion prompts:

• Were you surprised by the occupations the Interest Profiler suggested as a good fit for you?
• Which of your occupations have the best outlook? What is the best outlook?
• Which of your occupations requires the most education and training?
• Which of your occupations requires the least education and training?

Have students share out in pairs or small groups.

7. Take students back to the Career Center (link in Materials section) and have them log into their “My Stuff” student accounts. Then have them select “My Stuff” from the top navigation bar and then select “Career Action Plan” from the dropdown menu.

• If a student does not have an account, give them a copy of the student handout, “California Career Center “My Stuff” Student Account Setup”. If necessary, assist the student in creating an account or have students help their classmates.

Model for students how to fill in the Explore Occupations I section of their Career Action Plan. Point out that there are detailed directions and a short video.

8. Wrap Up. Reinforce the concepts learned in this lesson.

Remind students that career exploration and planning is a continually evolving process. As their interests change, their goals may change. Encourage them to take the Interest Profiler again to see how their interests change and if those changes impact their occupational goals.

**Estimated Time**

One or two class sessions

**Evaluation**

• Students will:
  - Complete the CareerZone’s Interest Profiler
  - Complete the Matchmaking: Interests and Careers handout using their Interest Profiler results
  - Enter at least three occupational choices into their Career Center Career Action Plan Explore Occupations I section

**Adaptation**

• Assign other assessments from the CareerZone “Assess Yourself” page.

This lesson and all other lessons and materials are available on the California Career Resource Network.
Instructor Resource
California CareerZone
Student Account Information

The step-by-step account setup instructions are in the student handout. As the instructor, it is important for you to know that:

- Students can complete some of the activities on the CareerZone without having a student account. However, students’ assessments results and occupational research will not be saved unless students are logged into their accounts. Because career and college planning is a continually evolving process, having students save their work means they will be able to access it for another class or at a later date.

- To help your students remember their passwords, you may wish to establish a password convention. Here are two examples:
  - student initial + school’s initials + year [tsDSH2018]
  - student initial + year + class period [ts2018period1]

- Visit the California CareerZone’s Privacy Policy for details on their privacy policies.

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**IMPORTANT**

State and federal laws govern the conditions and limitations for Internet usage by children under the age of 13. Before using the Internet, check your district policies and/or state and federal regulations.
Instructor Resource
California Career Center
“My Stuff” Student Account Information

The step-by-step “My Stuff” student account setup instructions are in the student handout. As the instructor, it is important for you to know that:

- Students need to have an account to access the interactive Career Action Plan. Because career and college planning is a continually evolving process, it is helpful for students to save their work so they will be able to access it for another class or at a later date.

- A student account can be deleted by selecting “Delete My Profile” on the student’s Profile page. This removes all information related to the account.

- To help your students remember their passwords, you may wish to establish a password convention. Here are two examples:

  o student initial + year + class period [ts2018period1]
  o student initial + school’s initials + year [tsDSH2018]

- Visit the California Career Center’s privacy policy for details on their privacy policies.

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Student Handout
California CareerZone
Student Account Setup

Follow these steps to set up your California CareerZone account:

1. Go to CareerZone.

2. Select “Register Now!” then fill in the basic information:
   - User Name
   - Password
   - Which describes you best? Select Student
   - Zip code (of your school)
   - Select “Next”

3. You are now in the “Tell us a bit about yourself” section:
   - Your first and last names are optional
   - An e-mail address is also optional; but if you need to retrieve your password or receive notifications, you’ll need to supply an e-mail address
   - Type in your school name or select it from the dropdown menu
   - Choose a graduation year

4. Now, select “Register”
   - You are now logged into your new account and are returned to the homepage.
Student Handout
California Career Center
“My Stuff” Student Account Setup

Follow these steps to set up your “My Stuff” student account:

1. Go to the Career Center.

2. Click on “My Stuff” in the top navigation bar.

3. In the dropdown menu, click on “Profile”.

4. You’re now on the “My Profile” page. Fill in the textboxes:
   - E-mail address
   - Password
   - First Name
   - Full School name
   - Zip Code (of the school)
   - Your grade level

5. Choose your top three reasons for coming to the California Career Center website.

6. At the bottom of the page, click “Submit”.

If at some point you decide to delete your account, go to your Profile page and select “Delete My Profile”.

California Career Resource Network, California Department of Education
Student Handout
California CareerZone: Interest Profiler

The California CareerZone Interest Profiler helps you discover the type of work activities and occupations you would like and find exciting.

Your Interest Profile Score:

- Is a measurement of whether or not you might enjoy the type of activities required by a specific occupation
  - Identifies your three main interest areas and these become your interest profile
  - Helps you decide what kinds of occupations and jobs you might want to explore based on your interests

Interest Profiler Theme Codes are:

Artistic occupations frequently involve working with forms, designs, and patterns. They often require self-expression and the work can be done without following a clear set of rules.

Conventional occupations frequently involve following set procedures and routines. These occupations can include working with data and details more than with ideas. Usually there is a clear line of authority to follow.

Enterprising occupations frequently involve starting up and carrying out projects. These occupations can involve leading people and making many decisions. Sometimes they require risk taking and often deal with business.

Investigative occupations frequently involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking. These occupations can involve searching for facts and figuring out problems mentally.

Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.

Social occupations frequently involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people. These occupations often involve helping or providing service to others.

Source: California CareerZone
Name: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Use your Interest Profiler results and occupational profiles to answer the following questions:

1. Your Interest Profiler summary lists your top three interest theme codes as:
   • ______________
   • ______________
   • ______________

2. Look at your Interest Profiler occupations results list and write down 4-5 occupations identified as strong matches for you. (Read the instructions at the top of the web page to see how strong matches are identified.)

3. Provide an overview of what people in each occupation do.

4. What is the employment outlook for each of those occupations? (To find the employment outlook, look at the occupation’s profile. Go to the profile by clicking on the occupation’s title in the results list.)

5. Describe why these occupations are good choices for you.

6. From the occupations you listed above, enter at least three of them in the “Explore Occupations I” section of your California Career Center Career Action Plan.
Matchmaking: Interests & Careers, page 2

Take the information you wrote down on page 1 and write a summary for at least three of the occupations you choose. At the end of your summary, indicate whether or not you think you would like to learn more about that occupation.

Occupation Summary

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