

Understanding the Career Clusters

LESSON 1: MEET THE CAREER CLUSTERS

Summary:

Students explore how Career Clusters related to specific careers and learn examples of careers within each Career Cluster.

Lesson Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Define and describe Career Clusters
- Explain how Career Clusters relate to real-world jobs

Curriculum Links: Career Planning

Grade Levels: 6 – 10

Time Needed: 45 minutes

Resources Needed:

- Access to Choices360
- Copy of **Meet the Career Clusters** worksheet
- Copy of **Career Clusters and a Carton of Ice Cream** worksheet
- Image of a carton of ice cream (projected, screen share, or actual carton)

Computer Use: Yes

ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors:

Mindsets: N/A

Behaviors:

Learning Strategies

1. Use critical thinking skills to make informed decisions
2. Take a creative approach to learning, tasks, and problem solving
5. Apply media and technology skills to enhance learning

Self-Management Skills

3. Work independently

Social Skills

1. Use effective oral and written communication skills and listening skills
6. Use effective collaboration and cooperation skills
7. Use leadership and teamwork skills to work effectively in diverse groups
9. Demonstrate social maturity and behaviors appropriate to the situation and environment

Description:

In this lesson, students will learn to define and describe each Career Cluster. They will also develop an understanding of how Career Clusters relate to various industries. As an introduction, students will learn that careers from any Career Cluster can relate to topics that they are interested in. They discover this by brainstorming how every Career Cluster is involved in the production or use of a carton of ice cream while completing the **Career Clusters and a Carton of Ice Cream** worksheet as a group. During the main activity, students will complete the **Meet the Career Clusters** worksheet, where they match a career to each Career Cluster.

Preparation:

1. Before the lesson begins, display a carton of ice cream. You can use a picture, a real (empty) carton, or an image projected onto your smartboard.
2. Print the **Meet the Career Clusters** worksheet.
3. Print the **Career Clusters and a Carton of Ice Cream** worksheet.

Warm Up:

1. Tell the students that in today's lesson, you will be learning about the Career Clusters.
2. Read aloud the definition of Career Clusters: **Career Clusters** are groups of careers that share similar skills and interests. Students interested in specific careers can find related options that might interest them by using the clusters. There are 16 Career Clusters that are subdivided into Career Pathways.
3. To ensure the students understand the concept of Career Clusters, name several random careers and ask the students to match each one with the correct Career Cluster.
4. Write Nurse, Carpenter, Mental Health Counselor, and Engineer on the board. Say something like, "Which of these careers do you think is part of the Health Science Career Cluster?" Wait for a student to answer, "Nurse." Then ask which career belongs in the Human Services Career Cluster (Mental Health Counselor), the Architecture and Construction Career Cluster (Carpenter), and the Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics Career Cluster (Engineer).
5. Add more examples of your own if students need additional practice.
6. Once the students are demonstrating a general understanding of the Career Clusters by matching career titles to the correct Career Cluster, move on to the activity below.

Activity Part I:

1. Distribute the **Career Clusters and a Carton of Ice Cream** worksheet.
2. Give students a few minutes to read over the names of each Career Cluster. Alternatively, you can briefly describe each Career Cluster to the class.
3. Tell the class that they are going to brainstorm which Career Clusters have jobs that are involved with a container of ice cream—everything from developing the recipe and acquiring the ingredients all the way to the day it is purchased from the grocery store and carried home to be eaten.

Lesson Plan

4. Lead the class in a brainstorming discussion during which they name a Career Cluster and explain how it relates to the carton of ice cream. Tell them that not all the answers are obvious and to think creatively. Students should write the answers down as you brainstorm as a class. Students do not need to name an exact career title. They can describe a general activity from each Career Cluster.
5. If the class does not eventually name all 16 Career Clusters, you can share that ALL Career Clusters are related to the carton of ice cream. Share the examples below or think of your own.
 - Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources: Dairy farmer raises and milks the cows
 - Architecture and Construction: Architect designs the store or factory
 - Arts, Audio-Video Technology, and Communication: Graphic artist designs the package
 - Business Management and Administration: Store manager runs the grocery store
 - Education and Training: Driving instructor trains the truck drivers who transport the ice cream
 - Finance: Accountant manages the finances for the ice cream manufacturer
 - Government and Public Administration: FDA inspector inspects the factory
 - Health Science: Nutritionist analyzes the nutrition content of the ice cream
 - Hospitality and Tourism: Restaurant manager offers the ice cream in the restaurant
 - Human Services: Childcare worker cares for the children of the store staff
 - Information Technology: Computer programmer develops software for cash registers
 - Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security: Security guard keeps watch at the grocery store
 - Manufacturing: Factory workers manage production
 - Marketing: Advertising manager designs the sales campaign
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics: Chemist ensures ice cream is shelf stable
 - Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics: Transportation workers supervisor ensures the ice cream is shipped
6. Once it has been established that all 16 Career Clusters can relate to a carton of ice cream, ask the students to think about something that they are interested in. It might be a sport, social media, a particular hobby, etc. Remind them that they can connect careers from any Career Cluster to their area of interest.

Activity Part II:

1. Distribute the **Meet the Career Clusters** worksheet.
2. Ask students to log into Choices360, navigate to the **Career Planning** tab, and go to **Explore Careers**. Point out the Career Clusters on the **Explore Careers** page. Students may use the Career Clusters as they complete their worksheet, or they can make their best guess.
3. Ask students to work independently or in pairs to complete the **Meet the Career Clusters** worksheet by matching all the careers with the correct Career Cluster.

Lesson Plan

Wrap Up:

1. Review the answers with your students.
2. Ask them if they discovered anything that surprised them. Do they have a favorite Career Cluster?
3. Answer any remaining questions.

The Career Clusters and a Carton of Ice Cream

Student name: _____

How many of the Career Clusters are involved in producing a carton of ice cream—from the development of the recipe to the day it is purchased from the grocery store and carried home to be eaten? In the blank beside each of the 16 Career Clusters, briefly explain how each Career Cluster is involved in producing a carton of ice cream.

CAREER CLUSTER	HOW IT RELATES TO A CARTON OF ICE CREAM
Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	
Architecture and Construction	
Arts, A/V Technology, and Communication	
Business Management and Administration	
Education and Training	
Finance	
Government and Public Administration	
Health Science	
Hospitality and Tourism	
Human Services	
Information Technology	
Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security	
Manufacturing	
Marketing	
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics	

Meet the Career Clusters

Student name: _____

Match each of the careers below to the correct Career Cluster.

Firefighter	Personnel Recruiter	Comic Illustrator	Driving Instructor
Advertising Manager	Pharmacy Technician	Chemical Engineer	Computer Programmer
Social Worker	Accountant	Food Scientist	City Administrator
Airline Pilot	Electrician	Aircraft Painter	Tour Guide

CAREER CLUSTER	MATCHING CAREER
Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	
Architecture and Construction	
Arts, A/V Technology, and Communication	
Business Management and Administration	
Education and Training	
Finance	
Government and Public Administration	
Health Science	
Hospitality and Tourism	
Human Services	
Information Technology	
Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security	
Manufacturing	
Marketing	
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics	

Meet the Career Clusters Answer Key

Match each of the careers below to the correct Career Cluster.

Firefighter	Personnel Recruiter	Comic Illustrator	Driving Instructor
Advertising Manager	Pharmacy Technician	Chemical Engineer	Computer Programmer
Social Worker	Accountant	Food Scientist	City Administrator
Airline Pilot	Electrician	Aircraft Painter	Tour Guide

CAREER CLUSTER	MATCHING CAREER
Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	<i>Food Scientist</i>
Architecture and Construction	<i>Electrician</i>
Arts, A/V Technology, and Communication	<i>Comic Illustrator</i>
Business Management and Administration	<i>Personnel Recruiter</i>
Education and Training	<i>Driving Instructor</i>
Finance	<i>Accountant</i>
Government and Public Administration	<i>City Administrator</i>
Health Science	<i>Pharmacy Technician</i>
Hospitality and Tourism	<i>Tour Guide</i>
Human Services	<i>Social Worker</i>
Information Technology	<i>Computer Programmer</i>
Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security	<i>Firefighter</i>
Manufacturing	<i>Aircraft Painter</i>
Marketing	<i>Advertising Manager</i>
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	<i>Chemical Engineer</i>
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics	<i>Airline Pilot</i>