

STEM Career Scavenger Hunt



LESSON PLAN

Audience Middle and High School Students

Time needed 30-60 minutes (depending on discussion)

Objective Through this activity, participants will increase their awareness of opportunities and pathways to STEM careers. The activity also connects participants STEM ability and capability to career interests.

Overview The purpose of this activity is to introduce students to two similar online tools for exploring careers. In addition, the activity creates an awareness of various pathways to STEM careers and includes positive messaging that improves accessibility and attraction to these careers.

This activity includes three handouts: a web resource page, a STEM Career Search Matrix to become accustomed to the web resources and identify the various pathways and opportunities, and a STEM Career Scavenger Hunt Worksheet that focuses on positive messaging. Internet connectivity is required, preferably for each participating student.

There are two parts to this activity, each including discussion.

Introduction

Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are in demand, and the opportunities are extensive. There are multiple pathways and options for students. This Scavenger Hunt will allow you to explore and learn more about STEM careers.

Part 1: STEM Careers Matrix

Using one or both of the websites provided, complete the matrix by discovering STEM careers that are new and interesting to you. Students should work alone or in pairs. *Allow 10 minutes.*

Invite students to share what they learned from this exploration. You might have them discuss in small groups of 4-6 first before opening up to the larger group. Topics might include amount of education required, earnings, and unique careers. STEM careers are in demand, which means that there are jobs, for example, technician jobs in manufacturing, that require STEM skills and an associate's degree or certification and can be a great option for some students. Challenge the students' thinking by discussing how education enables more opportunities for advancement and potential earnings over time. *Allow 10 minutes for discussion.*

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Part 2: STEM Career Scavenger Hunt

Using one or both of the websites provided, complete the worksheet by discovering 15 different STEM careers that are new and interesting. Students should work together in small groups, with each student searching independently if possible, so that they can explore more STEM careers and discuss why one career fits a certain worksheet space better than others. As students are working, continue to challenge them to discuss their rationales so that they can prepare for a presentation of their group's findings. *Allow 25 minutes.*

Invite the small groups to share their findings. You can hang six posters around the room with the headings of:

1. STEM Careers Are in Demand
2. STEM Careers Require Creativity
3. STEM Careers Require Collaboration
- 4.-6. STEM Careers Are Essential to Our Health... Happiness... Safety

You can have each small group write its career findings on the appropriate poster as it finishes. Review some of the findings, and invite a large group discussion on why a career is essential or creative or collaborative. *Allow 10 minutes for discussion.*

Summary

Careers in STEM make a world of difference and help shape our future. You have now learned how to use two career search tools to help you further explore what opportunities are available to you in STEM. You have learned about 15-20 new and interesting careers to consider for your future as well!

Ask students how they plan to use these search tools moving forward. Feel free to also ask about what they learned overall. *Allow 5 minutes for closing.*

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