

Professional Networks



Recommended
7th Grade



Length
75 minutes

About This Lesson

To understand the role networking plays within career industries, students will explore job boards, professional social networks, and industry approved accrediting associations, and reflect on the ways these communities can help lead to career opportunities.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- explore ways to find employment (e.g. job boards, networking, etc.)
- reflect on the advantages and disadvantages to various work search strategies
- research potential employers and career networks in their community.

Driving Question

What types of job search strategies will help me land a job?

Future-Ready Skills

Research Skills

Analyzing

Networking

Lesson Breakdown

5

minutes

Activity 1 - Professional Networks Mindmap

Provide a collaborative space for students to share a range of professional connections, possibly linked to careers they are interested in. To help with brainstorming, provide probing questions (for example, where do professionals in this career: meet-up? look for job opportunities? upgrade their skills? receive accreditation?). Keep this mindmap to build upon in the exit activity.

25

minutes

Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Jobs and Employers

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson titled **Jobs and Employers** to better understand job search strategies and research potential employers in their community.

40

minutes

Activity 3 - Professional Networks

In this activity, students will research professional organization networks or accrediting associations for three careers of interest and explain how the services they provide support professionals in this industry.

5

minutes

Exit Activity: Professional Connections Mindmap

Building upon the warm-up activity, have students add the networks they explored in Activity 2 to the mindmap. Then, ask them to draw lines between networks, identifying how they're related (for example, same career field, regulate professional standards, provide career-related training).



Xello Entry Point

Students will need to make sure they have saved 3 careers before starting this lesson. It's also recommended that students complete **Matchmaker** assessment (phase 1) and **Explore Career Matches** lesson.

Vocabulary

- Job Board
- Networking
- Responsibilities
- Requirements
- Relevant Skills
- Professional Standards
- Professional Accreditation
- Professional Designation

Activity 3 - Professional Networks



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Length
45 Minutes

Inquiry Prompts

- What are professional networks and how do they support people within an industry?

Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will research professional organization networks or accrediting associations for three careers of interest and explain how the services they provide support professionals in this industry.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.

Materials Required

- [Student Instructions](#)
- Computers or tablets with internet access

Artifacts

Students will add links to professional networks or accreditation organizations in the **Explore this Career: Helpful Articles** section of the career profile, and reflect on how the professional network provides support for professionals in the industry.

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Student Instructions

How do professionals share knowledge, determine standard of practice, and develop their skills within an industry? Developing a professional network will not only help you with job searches, but will help you achieve career goals, learn more about your field, or introduce you to another field you'd like to work in. Complete the following for three saved careers:

- 1 At the top of the profile, choose an emoji to indicate how you feel about this career.
- 2 Research professional organization networks or accrediting associations online. Select one to add to the **Explore this Career: Helpful Articles** section of the career profile.
- 3 Explain why this professional network is an important organization and how it provides support for professionals in the industry