

School Subjects at Work



Recommended
6th Grade



Length
75 Minutes

About This Lesson

To understand how knowledge and skills developed in school relate to careers, students will explore how a career's core tasks relate to subject areas, investigate ways to use their favorite school subject in a career that interests them, and identify important transferable skills they should continue to build while still in school.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- relate school subjects to various tasks
- reflect on their favorite school subject
- explore ways to use their favorite school subject in a career that interests them

Driving Question

How can school subjects help me identify interests that lead to a career?

Future-Ready Skills

Research

Analysis

Reflection

Lesson Breakdown

30
minutes

Activity 1 - Subject Related Core Tasks

In this activity, students will explore how a career's core tasks relate to subject areas and share their findings with the class.

25
minutes

Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: School Subjects at Work

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson titled School Subjects at Work where they will relate school subjects to various job-related tasks and explore ways to use their favorite school subject in a career that interests them.

20
minutes

Activity 3 - Keeping Your Options Open

In this activity, students will investigate the entry level responsibilities of 2 saved careers to identify important transferable skills they can start or continue to develop at school.



Xello Entry Point

Students will need to save 3 careers before starting this lesson. It's also recommended students complete the **Interests** lesson and supporting activities, where they **Explore Careers** by school subjects they're interested in to save at least 3 careers.

Vocabulary

- School subjects
- Arts & Music
- Language Arts
- Math & Computers
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies
- Career core tasks
- Career responsibilities
- Transferable skills
- Proficiency
- Relevancy

Activity 1 - Subject Related Core Tasks



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Inquiry Prompts

- How will I use what I learn in school in my career?
- Do careers require knowledge and skills developed in more than one subject area?

Instructions

In this activity, students will reflect on how a career’s core tasks relate to subject areas and share their findings with the class.

- 1 Prior to class, prepare these common school subjects as headings in a shared online document or posted around your room on chart paper. If delivering this lesson virtually, you may want to use a spreadsheet, giving each subject area its own sheet in the document.

- Art & Music
- Business
- Computers
- English
- Family Studies/Home Economics
- Languages
- Math
- Physical Education
- Science
- Shop/Skilled Trades
- Social Sciences

Example: Physical Education

Career <i>What career are you interested in?</i>	Core Task <i>Which core task will you learn about while you're in school?</i>	Subject Area <i>Which school subject will help you develop the knowledge or skills needed for the career-related task? And why?</i>
Personal Trainer	Develop personalized fitness programs	English - I will need to use clear communication skills when writing personalized fitness programs for clients.

NOTE: If students haven’t saved 3 careers, direct them to **Explore Careers** in Xello using the **More Filters** button to refine their search to careers related to selected school subjects they’re interested in. Have them review a minimum number of profiles and direct them to save at least 3 they’d consider for themselves. This will add at least 30 minutes to the activity.

- 2 Show students how to review the Xello career profile page of one saved career, and where to find the list of **Core Tasks** within the profile.

Materials Required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Chart paper and sticky notes or shared online document/spreadsheet

Artifacts

Students will contribute reflections on career core tasks to a list of school subjects as a way to see how what they learn in school relates to careers they’re interested in.

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Activity 1 - Subject Related Core Tasks



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- 3 Have student start with one saved career. For each core task, ask them to link it to one school subject (referring to the list of subjects you created in advance) that they think will help them develop skills in this area.
- 4 Direct them to choose 2 core tasks for their career to share with the rest of the class. Using sticky notes or recording directly in the shared document, guide students to add the career name under 2 subject areas along with the core tasks and why the school subject will help them. See the above example for Physical Education.
- 5 OPTION: Have students repeat steps 2 and 3 for two more saved careers.
- 6 As a class, review each subject area and discuss:
 - Are there any core tasks you'd place under a different subject area?
 - Did anyone find a career that only related to one subject area?

Activity 3 - Keeping Your Options Open



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Length
20 Minutes

Inquiry Prompts

- Will I need to study certain topics to prepare for a career?

Instructions

In this activity, students will investigate the entry level responsibilities for 2 saved careers to identify important transferable skills they can start or continue to develop at school. Provide the following instructions to your students:

Your saved careers can offer clues about what subjects to focus on in school, either now or in the future. But most of us don't know how our careers will play out or what careers will even be available after you graduate, so decisions about taking certain courses are more effective if you think of them in terms of the options they can create. To keep relevant options open, you've got to remain marketable all the time, which means developing skills that can be transferred to other careers. So what skills can you start developing in school now that will still be relevant in your future career?

- 1 Take a look at the entry level/career path responsibilities for 2 saved careers under **Sample Career Path** on the Xello career profile. Which responsibilities require skills that could be used in another career or will continue to be important for years to come?
- 2 Add these skills to your Xello **About Me** profile in the **Skills** section. Then rate your proficiency level of each skill:
 - 0 stars = Not available (you haven't learned this skills yet)
 - 1 star = Basic (you have fundamental knowledge)
 - 2 stars = Intermediate (you've successfully applied the skill outside of school)
 - 3 stars = Expert (you're able to teach others this skill)
- 3 For each skill you added, think about how you can continue to improve, either in school or at home?

Materials Required

- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will add **Skills** to their Xello **About Me** profile, based on career responsibilities that transcend time and context.