

Skills



Recommended
8th Grade



Length
115 Minutes

About This Lesson

To explore how skills can be developed and transferred to careers, students will reflect on the skills they are already practicing, identify those they desire to use in the future, and analyze how skills they develop in various contexts are transferable to the workplace.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- explore the skills required to perform various activities
- investigate the link between their skills and career goals
- explain how transferable skills are developed through their school, extracurricular, and/or community experiences
- analyze how they contribute to their readiness for future educational, life, and work opportunities and to their career development

Driving Question

What skills will I need to work in the jobs of the future?

Future-Ready Skills

Self-knowledge

Self-confidence

Self-efficacy

Lesson Breakdown

15
minutes

Activity 1 - Update My Skills

Direct students to review their **Skills** section on their **About Me** profile. Have them use this time to explore all the 6 **Skills Categories** and add any skills they are currently working on and they have attained to some degree. Rate each skill based on their self-determined attainment level: 1 star (beginner), 2 stars (rising star), or 3 stars (master). Work with your students to further define these levels.

30
minutes

Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Skills

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson titled **Skills**, where students will explore the skills required to perform various activities, as well as the link between their skills and career goals.

30
minutes

Activity 3 - Skills Lab

In this activity, students will complete the **Skills Lab** assessment to identify how often they'd like to use various skills in their future career and update their **Skills** section. Following the assessment, students will review their updated career matches based on their skill preferences.



Xello Entry Point

Before starting this lesson students need to save 3 careers and be familiar with their **About Me** profile. It is also recommended they have completed all 3 phases of the **Matchmaker** interest assessment (**Matchmaker**, **Personality Styles**, and **Mission Complete**).

Vocabulary

- Transferable skills
- Skill building
- Practice
- Skill attainment

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Activity 4 - Transferable Skills

In this activity, students will take a closer look at the skills required for 3 careers of interest, reflect on the ways they are practicing their desired skills, and identify ways to develop new or transferable skills.

10
minutes

Optional Activity - Interest Share Part 2

Build upon the Interest Share spreadsheet started in Activity 4 from the Interests supplementary lesson. Add a new column to the spreadsheet called “Transferable Skills” and have students add associated skills required or practiced for the listed activities to reveal opportunities for further skill exploration and development.

Activity 3 - Skills Lab



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Inquiry Prompts

- What skills do I desire to use always or often?
- Which careers match my skill desires?
- Why do I desire to use these skills?

Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will complete the **Skills Lab** assessment to identify how often they'd like to use various skills in their future career. Students will use their assessment answers to update their **Skills** section. Then, students will explore their updated career matches based on their skill preferences.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.
- 2 As an activity wrap-up, share the top 5 saved skills from the **Student Work Report** from your Xello Educator account. Use the group filter to show the results for just your list of students. Ask the students to discuss in small groups or share as a class: why do you think these are the top identified skills? Which of these skills appeared in your career exploration and how do they relate to tasks within that career?

Materials Required

- [Student Instructions](#)
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will complete the **Skills Lab** assessment, save at least 3 careers related to their skill preferences, and identify career related skills they like for each.

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Skills Lab

Student Instructions

Your preference to use certain skills over others may help you discover careers that you have not considered before. If you're interested in using a skill always or often in your career, you'll want to make sure that skill is used in your career journey.

- 1 From your Xello **About Me** page, complete the **Skills Lab** assessment to determine your level of desire to use 35 different skills in your career.
- 2 After completing the **Skills Lab** assessment, review your results. Which skills do you want to use always or often? And which skills do you rarely or never want to use?
 - Add the top 3-5 skills that you want to use always or often to your **About Me Skills** section. Rate each skill (1 star = beginner, 2 stars = rising star, or 3 stars = master). Although you want to use these skills always or often it doesn't mean you are a master of them now. You still have lots of time to develop these skills further.
- 3 Which careers share a similar skill set to those you desire to use? From **Explore Careers** in Xello, use the Skills Lab filter to order the list of career matches based on your Skill Lab answers. Do any results surprise you? Remember you can always Hide a career from your match results, if it does not align with your personal values, future aspirations, or lifestyle goals.
- 4 Explore some career profiles with the intention to save at least 3 you'd consider as possibilities for yourself. Within each profile think about the following:
 - **Find out why** the career has been assigned the match level (excellent, good, fair, or poor) by clicking on this option at the top of the profile. Review the overall match calculation and confirm your Matchmaker and Skills Lab answers accurately reflect your likes, dislikes, and preferences.
 - Does the career projection favor well? If not, what factors might be impacting this outlook and how might you need to differentiate yourself within a competitive job market?
 - Do the core tasks and workplace description align with your interests and values?
 - Is your personality style well-suited for this career?
 - Does the mid-range salary meet your lifestyle goals?
- 5 After saving at least 3 careers, within each profile update how you feel about each career, and add why you think you like a particular skill within each career in the **Likes and Dislikes** investigate card.

Activity 4 - Transferable Skills



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30 Minutes

Inquiry Prompts

- How am I currently practicing my desired skills?
- How can I continue to improve my desired skills?

Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will reflect on the ways they are practicing their desired skills and identify within 3 careers of interest the skills they desire to improve.

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

Materials Required

- [Student Instructions](#)
- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Optional: Collaborative spreadsheet (ie. Google Sheets)

Artifacts

For 3 saved careers, students will identify skills they are practicing today and skills they'd like to develop further as a way to demonstrate their understanding of transferable skills.

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Transferable Skills

Student Instructions

How do your current experiences help you prepare for career related skills? The various roles you play in your life require you to perform various tasks that require certain skills. Whether you are collaborating on a group project for school or caring for a family member at home, every responsibility you have requires you to perform particular skills. Many skills you are using and developing today will transfer to other future experiences, including your career. Complete the following for 3 saved careers:

- 1 At the top of the profile, choose an emoji to indicate how you feel about this career.
- 2 Take a look at the skills used by reviewing them within the **Find out why** area of the career profile. Note down 1 skill you are actively practicing today and 1 you desire to work on more.
- 3 Within the **My Notes** section at the top of the career profile, record reflections for these 2 skills:
 - Explain how you are practising one skill today, and how you think it could transfer to this career.
 - Identify one skill you'd like to develop further, and explain one type of opportunity you could pursue to explore and develop this skill.