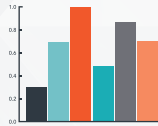




journey

Adult Basic Education



Lesson 5
Lesson Plan



OCCUPATIONAL EXPLORATION

Learning Objective

Students will research various job related statistics using the Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

Training Materials & Equipment

- A/V equipment for PowerPoint slides
- Computer or laptop for each student
- Lesson-Five.ppt
- Student goal sheets (should be in student files or folder)
- Career Exploration on the Internet Handout (one for each student)

Instructions

Set the tone for the lesson being one of exploration about what is most important to students work life.



Ask students to pull out their OK Career Guide homework from the previous week.

Distribute the goal sheets so students can transfer the pertinent information.

Ask students to share their top result from each category (in groups or as a class). **(Slide 2)** Students should share if the information was at all surprising and why or why not. Collect the goal sheets again for later use.



Students should transition to the computer lab or pick up a laptop for the next activity.

Explain that there are multiple resources available that provide up-to-date information about the labor market. The labor market includes industries that exist, different types of jobs that exist and even current job openings in a designated geographical area. There are also resources that take the past and current labor market trends to provide a predicted outlook for jobs and industry in the near future. These resources will be very helpful to students in their job searches and training decisions.

The first resource to access is the Bureau of Labor Statistics. **(All students will access this site).** This website has a wealth of information about jobs, as well as links to other resources that will help students research their top job or career choices. Remind students of the Then and Now activity from the first lesson, which concerned how jobs have changed over the years in duties and titles.

A related topic is traditional and nontraditional jobs. There are some off-the-wall job titles out there today. A traditional job does not mean it is old fashioned or obsolete; they are jobs that have been around for a long time and are still needed. We still need farmers to grow crops and raise livestock to supply food. The farmers depend on the sale of their crops or livestock to earn money. A teacher educates students to increase their knowledge.

A nurse takes care of sick people and follows through with prescribed medical care to help them heal. Nontraditional careers are those in which the majority of people occupying the job or career have been of one gender. Nontraditional occupations are those that have one gender occupying less than 25% of the workforce.

Go to <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/department/youre-a-what.htm> **(Slide 3 with website).** As you can see, there are some very interesting job titles on here. Some of them represent portions of traditional jobs that are now considered a specialty. Some have been created based upon need. Let students click on two or three job titles and read about them. Give them a few minutes to explore job titles/descriptions.



Ask: students what they thought of the job titles they clicked on. Were any of interest after reading descriptions?

Lesson Five

Go to https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_36420.htm (Slide 4 with website). This page of the BLS provides information about the earnings in specific occupations as hourly employees or salaried employees. This page has occupations broken down into industry. Once you click on the industry link, a list of individual occupations or job titles will appear and you can find the wage information. This information is very helpful when choosing a career path. Change the geographical area in which you are searching to compare wages to those in other states.



Ask: Were you surprised by the average wages of the jobs you researched? Does this make you think more about your career path or does it confirm you are going down the right path?

Go to <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/> (Slide 5 with website) to see the Occupational Outlook Handbook (Slide 5 with website). The handbook contains projected trends and viability of occupations in the future. It provides information regarding projected growth or decrease of occupations. Choose an occupation group from the left side of the page to see specific occupations with brief job descriptions, minimum education level requirements and median wages. Clicking on a specific occupational title will give the outlook information regarding the future of that occupation. Have students research a couple of occupations.



Ask: What did you think about the minimum education requirements? Did they surprise you?

Pass out the Career Exploration on the Internet handout.



This activity is designed to help students research specific details of their occupational choices. Have students use the BLS sites to research their primary occupations of choice from their OK Career Guide result sheets and then, using the same occupations, go to okcareerguide.org and fill out the OKCG Statics part of the worksheet. (Slides 6-7)



Ask: Did you learn something about the occupation that you did not know before this activity? Did any of the information change your mind about your choice of occupation or career path? Was the information different at BLS and OKCG?

Summary

All of the information researched today will be beneficial for students' educational growth and job searches. The websites are based upon an average and on statistics gathered by the BLS. Although we cannot depend on the information to be 100% exact in all geographical areas, it is a good benchmark to go by when considering educational or occupational changes. Review the checklist so the students can see where they have been and where they are going next.

Explore labor market statistics for growing industries. 	
Explore statistics for specific occupations related to student interests. 