



Career Readiness and Workforce Exploration Lesson Plan

KEY TERMS

Career Readiness

EDUCATION STANDARDS

South Dakota Department of
Education Standards

- IHS2.0: Investigate careers in selected career cluster.
- IHS3.0: Examine professional behaviors, skills, and abilities necessary in selected career cluster.
- IHS3.3: Analyze the importance of a professional image and professional behavior.

21st Century Skills Framework

TIME NEEDED

60 minutes

RESOURCE LIST

- [Operation Occupation](#)
- [Adulthood: Free Trial](#)
- [Life Skills Passport Curriculum](#)



EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES

- Understanding the concept of career readiness and its importance for future success.
- Overview of various career pathways and the skills associated with each.
- The role of education and training in preparing for specific occupations.
- The significance of soft skills like communication and teamwork in the workforce.
- Exploring the resources available for career planning, including the use of online tools.

EXTENDED LEARNING

- Students play Operation Occupation
- Resume building
- Workplace readiness skills packet

INTRODUCTION TO MATERIAL

Introduce the activity by explaining that participants will explore different careers and what they need to succeed in those roles. Present key points using a slideshow that outlines various occupations, and the skills needed. Provide students with a handout summarizing key vocabulary related to career readiness. Engage students by having them share any careers they are interested in and discuss what they know about those fields.

Common misconception: Students may think that only academic skills are important for job success, overlooking practical and soft skills.

OPENING

Begin with the question: “What do you think is the most important skill for success in a job?”

Facilitate a brief discussion where students share their thoughts.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Guided

- Divide students into small groups, each focusing on a different career cluster.
- Provide examples of occupations within those clusters and guide them in finding information using the online resource.
- Ask guiding questions, starting with: “What education is required?” and advancing to “What challenges might someone face in this career?”
- Monitor group discussions and assist as needed to ensure understanding.

Independent Study

- Set expectations for respectful and focused work.
- Students will individually choose one occupation from their group work and complete a worksheet that includes:
 - ✓ Description of the occupation
 - ✓ Required skills and education
 - ✓ Personal reflection on why they are interested in this career.

REFLECTION

- Have students shared one interesting fact they learned about their chosen occupation.
- Conduct a brief discussion to reinforce the importance of being prepared for the workforce.
- Ask guiding questions, starting with: “What education is required?” and advancing to “What challenges might someone face in this career?”

OPERATION OCCUPATION: UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Complete the sentence as you work through the Career Clusters. Repeat for each Escape Room completed.

Career Cluster: _____

I found it interesting that this career field:

Two jobs I think could be related to this career are:

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Two jobs I think could be related to this career are:

OPERATION OCCUPATION: UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE CONTINUED

Career Cluster: _____

I found it interesting that this career field:

Two jobs I think could be related to this career are:

Career Cluster: _____

I found it interesting that this career field:

Two jobs I think could be related to this career are:

Please check how you agree or disagree with the statements below:

As a result of this 4-H program...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel more knowledgeable about career opportunities that I can pursue in the future.				
I can connect my interests and skills to career options.				
I can weigh the pros and cons of my future career options.				
I have a better idea of what I might do after high school.				

Please tell us about yourself:

Age: _____

Grade: _____

Gender: _____

County: _____

School: _____

What is your race/ethnicity?

Black or African America

Caucasian/White

American Indian/Alaska Native

Hispanic or Latino

Asian

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Multiracial

Other

Advanced Manufacturing



Agriculture



Arts, Entertainment & Design



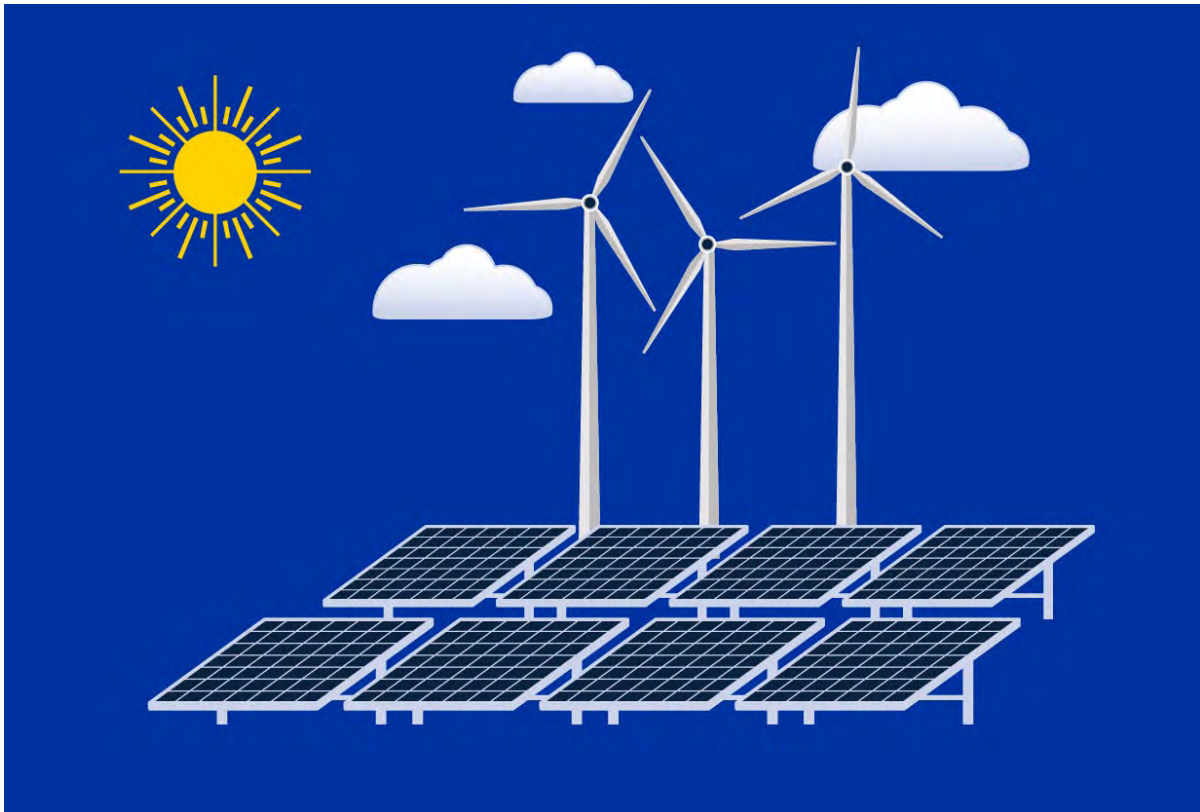
Construction



Education



Energy & Natural Resources



Financial Services



Healthcare & Human Services



Hospitality, Events & Tourism



Management & Entrepreneurship



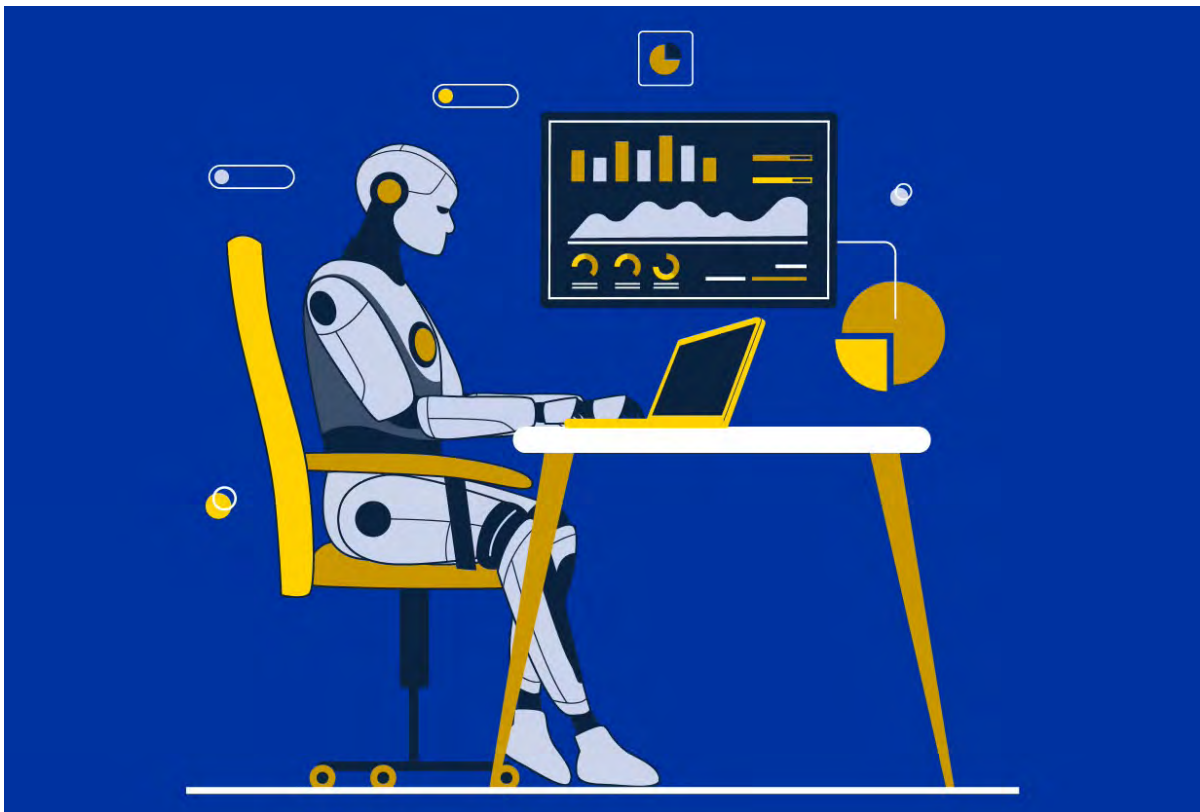
Public Service & Safety



Supply Chain & Transportation



Digital Technology



Marketing & Sales

