



— GRADES 6 - 8 • 4-WEEK UNIT

Career Exploration *Unit*

Discover your pathway to the future. A comprehensive 16-lesson journey through self-discovery, career clusters, professional communication, and presentation mastery.

● Self-Assessment

● Career Clusters

● Informational Interviews

● Pathway Presentations

THIS MEGA BUNDLE INCLUDES

- ✓ 16 Lesson Plans (45 min each)
- ✓ Career Cluster Research Templates
- ✓ Final Project Rubric (4-Category)
- ✓ Standards Alignment (ASCA, CCSS, CASEL)
- ✓ Parent/Guardian Letter Template
- ✓ Goal Setting & HS Planner
- ✓ Self-Assessment Inventories
- ✓ Informational Interview Prep Guide
- ✓ Reflection Journals (4)
- ✓ Differentiation & ELL Support
- ✓ Glossary & Digital Resources
- ✓ Certificate of Completion

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Pacing Guide & *Standards*

A 4-week roadmap aligned to national frameworks

4-Week Pacing Schedule

WEEK	FOCUS	LESSONS	DELIVERABLE
1	Self-Assessment	L1: Interests • L2: Skills • L3: Values • L4: Personality & Learning Style	Personal Profile
2	Career Clusters	L5: 16 Clusters Intro • L6–7: Deep Dive Research • L8: Future Jobs	2 Career Profiles
3	Informational Interviews	L9: What is an II? • L10: Finding Professionals • L11: Questions • L12: Mock Interview	Interview Plan
4	Pathway Presentation	L13: Project Intro • L14: Research & Outline • L15: Visual Aids • L16: Present!	Final Presentation

Standards Alignment

FRAMEWORK	STANDARDS ADDRESSED
ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors	Mindset M1: Belief in development of whole self • M2: Self-confidence in ability to succeed • M3: Sense of belonging • M4: Understanding that postsecondary education and life-long learning are necessary • B-LS1: Critical-thinking skills • B-SS1: Oral and written communication skills
Common Core ELA (Gr 6–8)	W.6–8.4: Produce clear and coherent writing • W.6–8.7: Conduct short research projects • SL.6–8.4: Present claims with relevant evidence • SL.6–8.6: Adapt speech to a variety of contexts • RI.6–8.7: Draw on multiple sources
CASEL SEL Competencies	Self-Awareness: Recognizing strengths and identities • Self-Management: Setting and achieving goals • Social Awareness: Empathy • Relationship Skills: Communication and collaboration • Responsible Decision-Making

CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

This unit naturally supports **digital literacy** (evaluating sources), **financial literacy** (salary/education ROI), **technology** (presentation slides), and **social studies** (workforce trends).

The 16 Career *Clusters*

A guided tour of the nationally-recognized career pathways

5

Exploring All 16 Career Clusters

45 MINUTES • INDIVIDUAL + HIGHLIGHTER ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE: Students will be introduced to the 16 nationally recognized career clusters and identify 3–4 clusters that match their Week 1 self-assessment.

Review the 16 clusters below. Each cluster represents a family of related jobs and industries. **Highlight or star the 3–4 clusters that best match your interests, skills, and values from Week 1.**

1 Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Farming, environmental science, food production, wildlife management

2 Architecture & Construction

Building design, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, project management

3 Arts, A/V Technology & Communications

Film, journalism, graphic design, broadcasting, performing arts

4 Business Management & Administration

Leadership, HR, operations, entrepreneurship, office management

5 Education & Training

Teaching, counseling, library science, instructional design

6 Finance

Banking, accounting, investment, insurance, financial planning

7 Government & Public Administration

Public service, policy, military, foreign service, city planning

8 Health Science

Medicine, nursing, dental, therapy, medical research, pharmacology

9 Hospitality & Tourism

Hotels, restaurants, event planning, travel, culinary arts

10 Human Services

Social work, counseling, child care, elder care, community services

11 Information Technology

Software, cybersecurity, data science, network administration

12 Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

Lawyers, police, firefighters, paralegals, corrections officers

13 Manufacturing

Production, quality control, robotics, supply chain, welding

14 Marketing, Sales & Service

Advertising, sales, public relations, market research, retail

15 Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

Research, engineering, mathematics, physics, biotechnology

16 Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Aviation, logistics, trucking, warehousing, supply chain

Career Research #1

Going deep on a career that excites me

6

Deep Dive: Career Research #1

45 MINUTES • INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

OBJECTIVE: Students will conduct focused research on one specific career, gathering details on daily tasks, education, salary, and outlook using credible sources.



RECOMMENDED SOURCES

Use the curated list on Page 32 — start with BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook ([bls.gov/ooh](https://www.bls.gov/ooh)) and CareerOneStop ([careeronestop.org](https://www.careeronestop.org)).

Career Profile #1

Job Title:

Career Cluster:

Job Description — What do they do daily?

Education / Training Required:

Average Salary Range:

Job Outlook:

--

PERSONAL CONNECTION

Why does this job interest me? Connect to your Week 1 self-assessment.

Which of my Week 1 skills match this job?

Finding & *Contacting* Professionals

How to ask for an interview the right way

10

Drafting a Professional Request Email

45 MINUTES • MODELING + INDEPENDENT WRITING

OBJECTIVE: Students will learn how to find professionals to interview and draft a polite, professional request email using a structured template.

Where to Find Professionals

- **Family & family friends:** Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, older cousins
- **School staff:** Teachers, coaches, counselors, administrators
- **Community members:** Neighbors, religious leaders, club advisors
- **Local businesses:** Call or email a local business
- **Virtual interviews:** With parent permission, video call professionals anywhere



ALWAYS ASK PERMISSION

Before contacting any adult who is not a family member, get permission from a parent, guardian, or teacher.

Email Template

Replace each [bracketed field] with your specific information.

Subject: Informational Interview Request – [Your Name]

Dear [Mr./Ms./Dr. Last Name],

My name is [Your Name] and I am a [6th/7th/8th] grade student at [School Name]. I am researching careers in [Career Cluster/Field] and I am very interested in your work as a [Job Title].

I would love to learn more about your career journey. Would you be willing to speak with me for 15–20 minutes for an informational interview? I am available [give 2–3 specific days/times], and we could meet by video call or phone – whichever is easier for you.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I understand you are very busy, and I appreciate any time you can share.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Email Address]

Final Project *Rubric*

Career Pathway Presentation — 4 categories × 4 levels

Score each category 1–4. Multiply total by 6.25 for a 100-point scale ($4 \times 4 = 16 \times 6.25 = 100$). Share this rubric with students at the start of Lesson 13.

CATEGORY	EXEMPLARY (4)	PROFICIENT (3)	DEVELOPING (2)	BEGINNING (1)
Content & Research	All 5 required sections included with detailed, accurate research. Sources are credible and current.	All 5 sections included; research is mostly accurate and adequate detail is provided.	Missing 1 section OR research is superficial with minimal detail.	Missing 2+ sections OR research contains significant inaccuracies.
Self-Connection	Deeply explains how personal interests, skills, AND values connect to the career choice with specific examples.	Explains how 2 of the 3 (interests, skills, values) connect to the career choice.	Mentions only 1 of the 3, or connection is vague and lacks explanation.	No clear connection between self and career choice is articulated.
Action Plan	Provides 3 specific, actionable steps to prepare for this career, with timelines.	Provides 2–3 steps, but some are vague or lack timelines.	Provides 1 step, or steps are not relevant to the chosen career.	No action plan provided, or plan is generic and not actionable.
Presentation Skills	Clear voice, strong eye contact, 3–5 minutes, no reading from slides. Confident delivery with appropriate pacing.	Good volume, some eye contact, within time limit, minimal reading from slides.	Hard to hear, minimal eye contact, outside time limit, mostly reading from slides.	Inaudible, no eye contact, significantly short or long, entirely read from slides.

Scoring Guide

TOTAL SCORE (OUT OF 16)	PERCENTAGE	LETTER GRADE	INTERPRETATION
14–16	88–100%	A / B+	Exemplary work — student demonstrates mastery of all unit objectives.
11–13	69–87%	B / C	Proficient — student meets expectations with minor gaps.
8–10	50–68%	C / D	Developing — student shows partial mastery; revisit key concepts.
4–7	25–49%	F	Beginning — student needs significant support; consider reteaching.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Career Exploration Unit

Grades 6 – 8 • 4-Week Comprehensive Study

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

For successfully completing all 16 lessons of the Career Exploration Unit,
demonstrating growth in self-awareness, career research, professional
communication, and presentation skills. Your pathway to the future has begun.

TEACHER SIGNATURE

DATE

— COMPLETE RESOURCE CONTENTS

What's Inside the *Full PDF*

This preview shows 8 key pages. The complete mega bundle contains 38 pages of premium, classroom-ready career exploration materials.

38

TOTAL PAGES

16

LESSON PLANS

20+

RESOURCES

4

WEEKS

1

Welcome & Teacher Guide

Implementation snapshot + what's new

2

Table of Contents

Full 38-page roadmap

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Pacing & Standards

ASCA • CCSS • CASEL aligned

4

Differentiation & ELL

IEP/504/ELL/Gifted strategies

5

Week 1: Self-Assessment

Interests, Skills, Values, Personality

6

Week 2: Career Clusters

16 clusters + research templates

7

Week 3: Interviews

Email, questions, mock practice

8

Week 4: Presentations

Project, outline, visual aids, delivery

9

Reflection Journals

4 weekly guided reflections

10

Goal Setting & HS Planner

SMART goals + 4-year plan

11

Glossary & Digital Resources

25+ terms + 12 websites

12

Parent Letter + Rubric + Keys

Templates + answer keys

Get the Complete 38-Page Mega Bundle

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