



The Trades Activity

Setup:

- The students' desks should be arranged into five groups.
 - As students enter the classroom, keep equal numbers in each group.
- Hang the house poster in front of the room using magnets.
- Place the Eggsbert on a desk/table at the front of the room. Keep the student buttons up front for now.

Goal: Students will be able to:

- Define high-growth careers – Careers that have more jobs than qualified employees.
- Define skilled trade jobs - Jobs that involves mastering a specific skill set, doing hands-on work
- Gain an understanding of the importance of skilled trade jobs in daily life
- Understand the different types of education required for trade careers

Introduce yourself and briefly share your career/education background.

Preface to Activity: (5-10 minutes)

“Today we will be learning about skilled trade jobs and why they are important to our community.”

Use the flashcards to define:

- **Skills** –the ability to do something well; expertise.
 - Ask for examples. Possible answers: math, music, writing, soccer, problem solving and communication.
- **High-Growth Careers** – Careers that have more jobs than qualified employees.
 - Explain that many high-growth careers are in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) field; however, skilled/trade school jobs are now considered high-growth jobs.
 - The federal government does research to determine which jobs will be high-demand, high growth jobs.
 - Ask students why it's important to know which careers are high-growth.
 - This information helps schools, colleges, and young people prepare for career opportunities in professions where there is a need for certain skills.
 - It is important for young people to focus on skills that are in demand rather than concentrate on a specific job.

- **Trade Jobs** – Careers that require specific education/training less than a four-year bachelor’s degree. Currently, there are 30 million jobs in the US that pay an average of \$55,000 a year and do not require a four-year degree.
 - Types of “specific education/training” are beyond a high school diploma and include:
 - a two-year associate degree
 - an apprenticeship (on the job training)
 - a certification (a document attesting to a level of achievement obtained by classroom learning/testing)

Activity – Who Do You Call? (15-20 minutes)

This is a Family-Feud style game.

Supplies:

- House/Community Poster
- Buzzer System (1 wireless game, 5 student answer buttons, 1 teacher remote, 1 teacher’s guide)
- Tradespeople Playing Pieces (five sets in different colors)
- Who Do You Call? Question and Answer Sheet

Tell students that the object of the game is to get as many of their team’s tradespeople playing pieces onto the poster as possible by correctly answering questions.

Instructions:

- Pass out the tradespeople playing pieces and matching student buzzer button; each group gets a different color.
- Give students **3 minutes** to look over and discuss the occupations listed on the playing pieces.
- Check to see if they have questions about any of the occupations (they should)!**
- The buzzer should be placed in the middle of the group so that anyone can reach it.
 - The JA volunteer will ask a question from the laminated “Who Do You Call?” question and answer sheet.
 - **Students must wait until the question is read in its entirety before pressing their buzzer.**
 - The first student to press the buzzer gets the opportunity to answer the question; they may check with group members for help/confirmation, but they only have 5 seconds to answer and get 1 guess.
 - If the answer is correct:
 - He or she will find the matching tradesperson playing piece and place it anywhere on the poster.
 - If the answer is incorrect:
 - Ask the question again to the 4 remaining groups.

*Note: It is not important for the students to use the exact terminology. For example, “mechanic” may be used instead of “auto technician”, etc.

- **If a fun fact is available, read it to the students as the playing piece is added to the poster.**

- Play continues until all questions (or as many as time allows) have been read and the corresponding playing pieces have been added to the poster.
- Calculate the score by counting the number of playing pieces each team has on the poster. The highest number is the winner.
- At the end of the game, all 18 tradesperson playing pieces should be back in the baggies and placed up front along with the student buzzer buttons.

Closing/Talking Points (as time permits):

- ****What are High-Growth Careers – Careers that have more jobs than qualified employees.**
- Were you aware that trade jobs are in high demand?
 - Trades jobs are available in a national and global market.)
- What is one benefit of learning a skilled trade?
 - Possible answers:
 - Students can start their education/training as early as high school. That allows them to start making money earlier.
 - Less educational debt.
 - Many trade careers are high-growth and high-demand.
 - Many careers do not require workers to be in an office and are great for those that love the outdoors or do not want to sit at a desk.
- What most surprised you about skilled jobs?
 - Possible answers:
 - The various educational requirements.
 - The pay of many jobs.
 - The number of skilled workers that are needed in our community and homes.
- Where could you learn more about trades jobs?
 - Possible answers:
 - Research online
 - Look for apprenticeships
 - PA Dept. of Labor and Industry

End of Day Clean-Up Checklist – Place the following back in the bin:

- Set of Blue People (18)
- Set of Green People (18)
- Set of Yellow People (18)
- Set of Purple People (18)
- Set of Red People (18)
- Community Poster (1)
 - Magnetic clips
 - Tape
- Buzzer System (1 wireless game, 5 student answer buttons, 1 teacher remote, 1 teacher's guide)
- Extra batteries
- Screwdriver
- Volunteer Instructions Folder
 - Who Do You Call? Q&A sheet (1)
 - Definition Cards – skills, high growth, trade jobs (3)
 - Eggspert Remote Setup Guide (1)
 - Recap Question Card (1)
 - Finale Question Card (1)
- Thank the teacher for allowing JA in their classroom today.
- Return Bin to JA staff in hospitality area.

Smile. You made a difference today!