

Activity 8: Career Fair Project

FOR THE TEACHER

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to help students:

- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of selected fields of work and occupations
- Learn how to work effectively in teams or groups
- Discover how Career Cruising and other resources can be used in research projects and presentations

How the Activity Works

The occupations in Career Cruising are divided into career clusters. To view the careers in these clusters, go to the **Careers** page and click on the **16 Career Clusters** tab.

IMPORTANT: The Career Fair Project is set up for use with the 16 National Career Clusters system. If this clustering system is not enabled at your site, or if you prefer to use a different clustering system that is available at your school (*e.g. your state cluster system*), we suggest you modify the instructions on Worksheet 8 to avoid any confusion.

The class should be divided into groups of two to four students. Each group should be assigned a cluster that they will be responsible for researching and presenting to the class. The presentations should cover:

- General information on the cluster as a whole
- A more in-depth examination of one or two individual occupations

Presentations can include handouts, visuals, work-related tools, etc. Students should also be encouraged to be creative in their presentations.

Much of the research can be completed using Career Cruising. However, students should be encouraged to do research in the library or on the Internet as well.

Starting the Program

Go to **www.careercruising.com**. Enter your personal My Plan username and password in the spaces provided, and click on **Log In**.

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ASSIGNMENT

Your group is responsible for making a presentation on one of the career clusters in Career Cruising. Part of your presentation should be about the cluster as a whole, including topics such as:

- The types of careers that are included in the cluster
- What these different careers have in common
- Where people in these occupations work
- How much income people in this cluster can earn
- What the labor market is like for people in these clusters (*e.g. are there any "hot" areas with lots of jobs available?*)
- Where to get more information (*e.g., helpful websites, books, newspapers*)

The other part of the presentation should be focused on one or two specific careers within the cluster. You may want to pick careers that you think are interesting or that other people may not be familiar with. Your presentation should cover:

- The kind of work or tasks people in the career perform
- The tools, instruments, or equipment they use
- Where they work
- How much income they earn and factors that affect their income
- The education and/or training needed to get into the career
- Where to get more information on the career (*e.g. helpful websites*)
- What real people in the career have to say about it (what they like or dislike about the career, what advice they have for people who want to get into the career, etc.)

You may use handouts, visuals, and other "props" to make the presentation more interesting.

RESEARCH

You can use Career Cruising to find out which careers are in which clusters and to do research on individual careers. Further research can be done in the library or on the Internet.

USING CAREER CRUISING

Log in to Career Cruising and click on **Careers**, then click on the **16 Career Clusters** tab.

Click on your cluster.

You will see an overview of that cluster. To learn about career pathways within that cluster, click on one of the pathways links on the left side of the page. For information about education programs related to that cluster, click on the **Related Majors** tab. The **Programs Of Study** section includes a sample high school course program that relates to that cluster.

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Click on the **Related Careers** tab to see a list of careers in that cluster. If you want to learn more about a specific career, click on it.

Each career profile includes in-depth information on working conditions, education, income, and sample career paths, as well as links to other sources of information. There are also two interviews with real people in each occupation.

USING LINKS

You can use the links in Career Cruising as a starting point for your Internet research. Go to the **Other Resources** section of the occupation profile you are researching and click on the listed links.

If you would like to do additional research on the Internet, you can use your favorite search engine to search for information on the career and career cluster you are researching. Professional and trade associations, unions, colleges, and government websites usually have the most accurate information.