

Creating a vision board for careers in math

Students conduct research on the Occupational Outlook Handbook webpage of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics to learn about careers in math.

Learning goals

Big idea

Planning now for life after high school can help set you up for success.

Essential questions

- What are career options in math?
- What kind of education do I need to help me prepare for a career in math?

Objectives


- Research careers in math
- Create a vision board for careers in math

NOTE

Please remember to consider your students’ accommodations and special needs to ensure that all students are able to participate in a meaningful way.

KEY INFORMATION

Building block:

 Financial knowledge and decision-making skills

Grade level: Middle school (6–8)

Age range: 11–14

Topic: Earn (Learning about careers, Making money)

School subject: CTE (Career and technical education), Fine arts and performing arts, Math

Teaching strategy: Cooperative learning, Project-based learning

Bloom’s Taxonomy level: Understand, Evaluate, Create

Activity duration: 45–60 minutes

National Standards for Personal Financial Education, 2021

Earning income: 4-1, 4-2, 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4, 8-9, 12-3, 12-4, 12-11

These standards are cumulative, and topics are not repeated in each grade level. This activity may include information students need to understand before exploring this topic in more detail.

What students will do

- Explore math careers on the Occupational Outlook Handbook webpage of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Fill in a chart with information about the careers.
- Create a vision board for careers in math.

Preparing for this activity

- While it's not necessary, completing the "Meeting your future self" activity first may make this one more meaningful.
- Print copies of all student materials, or prepare for students to access them electronically.
- Become familiar with the Occupational Outlook Handbook at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>.
- Secure access to the Internet and computers or tablets so students can conduct research.
- Obtain paper and art supplies or secure computers or tablets with design software for students to use to create vision boards.

What you'll need

THIS TEACHER GUIDE

- **Creating a vision board for careers in math** (guide)
[cfpb_building_block_activities_creating-vision-board-careers-math_guide.pdf](#)

STUDENT MATERIALS

- **Creating a vision board for careers in math** (worksheet)
[cfpb_building_block_activities_creating-vision-board-careers-math_worksheet.pdf](#)
- **Computers or tablets with Internet access**
- **Art supplies and paper or computers or tablets with design software**
- **The Occupational Outlook Handbook webpage of the Bureau of Labor Statistics at**
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Exploring key financial concepts

When you think about what job you want when you grow up, it's important to explore your options in different fields. It's also helpful to consider how much education you'll need and how much different occupations may pay. People in high-paying occupations like surgeons or lawyers may earn more money than people in other occupations. But surgeons and lawyers have to go to school for much longer and earn additional degrees before they can start earning higher pay. The level of education you achieve often directly affects how much money you can earn.

TIP

Because careers, education requirements, and pay levels change, students should be encouraged to always look for the most up-to-date information.

Teaching this activity

Whole-class introduction

- Introduce the activity by explaining to students that when they start to think about their futures, it can be helpful to consider how the school subjects they're most interested in can lead to a successful career choice.
- Explain that students will visit the U.S. Department of Labor-sponsored Occupational Outlook Handbook webpage of the Bureau of Labor Statistics at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/> to explore careers in math and learn what education or training options might help them prepare for those careers.
- Distribute the "Creating a vision board for careers in math" worksheet.
- Be sure students understand key vocabulary:
 - **Career:** A profession that may span your lifetime and includes your education, training, professional memberships, volunteering, and full history of paid work. Can be a synonym for occupation.
 - **Job:** A specific arrangement where you do tasks for an employer.
 - **Occupation:** Describes a type of work with associated tasks, education and training, typical wages, work settings, and more. Can be a synonym for career.

TIP

Visit CFPB's financial education glossary at consumerfinance.gov/financial-education-glossary/.

Individual and group work

- Ask students to form pairs or small groups to complete this activity.

- Direct students to visit the Occupational Outlook Handbook at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>.
- Have students select “Math” to see the different occupations in that category.
- Ask the pairs or groups to agree on three occupations from the list.
 - Have students click on each occupation and review the information for each occupation.
 - Students will use this information to fill in the chart on the worksheet.
- After completing the chart, students will create a vision board on paper or with a computer or tablet.
 - The vision board should have the word “Math” in bold in the center.
 - The vision board should also include pictures of the different occupations (either drawn or printed from the Internet), a brief job description, median income, education needed, and any other information that students want to include about careers in math.
- Have students work independently to answer the reflection questions on the worksheet.

Wrap-up

- Bring the students back together and ask a few volunteers to share their vision boards with the class.
- Ask for volunteers to share their responses to the reflection questions.

Suggested next steps

Consider searching for other [CFPB activities](#) that address the topic of earning, including learning about careers or making money. Suggested activities include [“Comparing higher education choices”](#) and [“Increasing your earning potential.”](#)

Measuring student learning

Students’ answers on their worksheets and during discussion can give you a sense of their understanding. **Keep in mind that students’ answers may vary, as there may not be only one right answer.** The important thing is for students to have reasonable justification for their answers.