

Playing career charades

Students play a game of charades to explore different careers.

Learning goals

Big idea

There are many different careers you can think about for your future.

Essential questions

- What careers do people have?
- What career would I like to have in the future?

Objectives

- Understand that there are many different careers you can explore
- Consider a career you might want in the future

What students will do



- Share examples of careers.
- Play a charades game about careers.
- Reflect on a career they might like to have.

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:

-  Executive function
-  Financial habits and norms

Grade level: Elementary school (2-3)

Age range: 7-9

Topic: Earn (Learning about careers, Making money)

School subject: Fine arts and performing arts, Social studies or history

Teaching strategy: Gamification

Bloom's Taxonomy level: Understand, Analyze, Create

Activity duration: 45-60 minutes

National Standards for Personal Financial Education, 2021

Earning income: 4-1, 4-4, 4-5

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.

Preparing for this activity

- While it's not necessary, completing the "Identifying a career" activity first may make this one more meaningful.
- Gather paper and pencils for each student to use.

What you'll need

THIS TEACHER GUIDE

- Playing career charades (guide)
[cfpb_building_block_activities_playing-career-charades_guide.pdf](#)

STUDENT MATERIALS

- Paper and pencils

Exploring key financial concepts

People in our lives can have many different careers. We know about some careers, like being a teacher, construction worker, or a nurse. But we may not know about some of the other careers people can have. One way to learn about careers is to talk with family members, friends, neighbors, and other trusted adults to learn about the type of work that they do. A career and a job are different. A job is a specific task that someone does to earn money. A career is a type of work someone has for many years or their lifetime. For example, someone may have a career as a writer and different jobs writing books, news stories, or web pages during their career. Learning about what the people in your life do for a living can help you think about what you might choose for your future career.

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

- Ask students to share examples of different types of careers.
 - Tell students that people in our communities have many different careers.
 - As students share examples, write them on the board or project the list so that all students can see them.
 - You may want to add to the list some careers students would be familiar with, such as firefighter, teacher, car mechanic, photographer, and actor.
- Tell students that careers and jobs are different.
 - Explain that a job is a specific task that someone does to earn money.
 - Explain that a career is a type of work someone has for many years or their lifetime.
 - For example, someone may have a career as a writer and different jobs writing books, news stories, or web pages during their career.
- Tell students that they'll play a charades game about careers.
 - Model an example:
 - Ask students to guess what career you're about to act out.
 - Then act out a construction career by pretending to hammer something.
- Be sure that 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.
 - **Earn:** To receive money in exchange for goods or services.
 - **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

As you introduce the activity, you could show students the Sesame Street video "The Job Song"* at <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/financial-education/?activity=the-job-song>.

TIP

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

*The CFPB does not endorse this third party or guarantee the accuracy of this third-party information.

Individual work

- Ask students to think of a career.
 - They can choose a career that someone in their life has or one from the list the class created together.
 - Remind them that one student will act out this career while others guess what it is.
- Give paper and a pencil to each student.
- Have them write down the career they thought of.
- Ask students to crumple the paper into a “snowball.”
- Divide students into groups of four to six.
 - Spread the groups out in the room.
- Have each group form a circle.
- Direct the students to place the “snowballs” in a pile in the center of the circle.
 - Tell them to place the snowballs in the pile gently so that they don’t throw them.
- Explain the game:
 - A student in each group will pick a snowball and open it.
 - The student will read the career listed silently.
 - Then the student will act out the career for up to 30 seconds.
 - The students’ group will try to guess the career.
 - If no one guesses correctly after 30 seconds, the person acting out the career will share the answer.
 - The student sitting to the left of the person acting out the charade will have the next turn.
- Continue the game until all the snowballs are used.

Wrap-up

- Bring the class back together.
- Ask each student to share what career they might like to have in the future.
 - Be sure students understand that the career they share doesn’t have to be one discussed during the activity.

Suggested next steps

Consider searching for other [CFPB activities](#) that address the topic of earning, including learning about careers and making money. Suggested activities include [“Learning about careers with Money Monsters”](#) and [“Choosing a career.”](#)

Measuring student learning

Students’ answers during the game and the discussion can give you a sense of their understanding. **Keep in mind that students’ job choices will vary.** The important thing is for students to have reasonable justification for their choices.