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As a teacher or homeschooler of high school students, you know how crucial career planning is for them. They will be heading off to the workforce soon and need the tools to succeed and thrive in a career. Fortunately, educators can use many practical teaching tools to their advantage. Let's take a look at some of the best worksheets to teach career planning to your high schoolers. Many students have no idea what career path they want to follow. Taking assessments that highlight their interests can be excellent starting points. Here are some career assessment worksheets: MyMn Career Plan: These extensive worksheets begin with an assessment to gauge student interests, match careers to those interests, and show paths to reaching career goals. (Recommended for 9th graders, but good for 9th - 12th) Brand Evaluation Worksheet: This worksheet (see Blackline Master 3a) has students self-reflect on their strengths and needs, fine-tuning the attributes that will help them in specific careers. (Grades 9 - 12) CanGo2 Student Workbook: This workbook has worksheets that cover the whole gamut of career planning. See "What Do You Want to Be?" (pgs. 7-8) and "Career Interests" (starting on pg. 11) to dive into career assessment and strength identification. (11th-12th grade) Stages of Career Worksheet: This worksheet involves kids discovering interests and possible career choices. (Ideal for high school special education, but can be used in gen. ed., too) RIASEC Test: Students fill out this worksheet to get an idea of possible careers, with categories like Realistic, Artistic, Investigative, and Enterprising, to get them on their way. (9th - 12th) Once students have an idea of their desired career cluster, they can focus on some jobs within that segment. Here are some worksheets to help them research their dream job: Worksheet for Researching Occupations: This worksheet requires students to research and fill in relevant information about specific careers. (9th - 12th grade) Developing My Career Plan: This worksheet (see page 20) has students list their career goals, interests, and training needed to reach their goals. (9th - 10th grade) Career Exploration: These worksheets are stand-alone activities students can complete independently to learn more about specific careers. (9th - 12th grade) Career Exploration Webquest: In this worksheet, students go on a Webquest and complete the sheet with the information they find. (best for 10th grade, but good for others) Career Exploration One-Pager: This worksheet keeps kids on track researching a career without overwhelming them, making it excellent for learning about job training and skills. (9th - 10th grade) As students figure out specific careers, they can begin to plan how to prepare to land the job. These worksheets focus on interviewing, soft skills, and tips to get into their career. Networking BINGO Worksheet: This worksheet (Blackline Master 6a) goes along with a group "networking" activity, in which students learn the art of building connections to make job searching easier and more productive. (11th - 12th grade) Speed Interviewing: Students complete this worksheet (Blackline Master 11a) as they assess their partner's interviewing skills. (11th - 12th grade) Self-Evaluation of Workplace Readiness Skills: This worksheet guides kids through various categories to see if they're ready for their careers. (9th - 12th grade) Job Interview Questions: This worksheet lists 99 sample interview questions to prepare your kids for the big day. (9th - 12th grade) Career Research Handout: This worksheet combines all the elements, having kids list qualifications, salary, skills, and education/training needed to prepare for specific careers. (9th - 12th grade) Now that your students have inventoried their interests, honed in on a career, and learned the skills to land their job, they can focus on the hands-on side of career planning. They learn to fill out applications and complete resumes, which these worksheets can help them with. Customized Resumes: These worksheets (Blackline Master 7a) show students resumes with problems they need to identify and improve. (9th - 12th grade) Application for Employment: Students need to correct the mistakes on a job application in this worksheet, preparing them for the near future. (9th - 12th grade) Pocket Resume for High School Students: Kids see what information they need to know for resumés in this worksheet and write it down for later use. (9th - 12th grade) Volunteering Tree Diagram: Volunteering is crucial for resumé building, and this worksheet provides a space for students to map out their volunteering activities. (11th - 12th grade) STEM Careers Research and Application: These worksheets go through the whole career planning process, from narrowing in on a career to training requirements to preparing to apply for the job. (9th - 12th grade) Check out our teacher's hub for teaching career planning to students for more lesson plans, learning objectives, teaching tips, and other resources for all grade levels. Are you a high school or college student looking for a resource to help you explore different career options? Look no further! Our career exploration printable worksheets are designed to guide you through the process of discovering your interests, skills, and goals, and match them with potential career paths. 12 Images of Career Exploration Printable Worksheets Career Research Worksheet High School Career Exploration Activity Worksheet Career Research Worksheet for Kids High School Career Worksheets for Students Printable Career Worksheets Career Exploration Student Worksheet Free Printable Job Worksheet Career Word Search Printable Career Research Worksheet Charter Development Worksheet College Career Research Assignments High School Career Planning Worksheet Exploring various career options can be exciting for students, and with our Career Exploration Printable Worksheets, you can provide valuable insights and resources for their future planning. How can career exploration printable worksheets help me in my job search? Career exploration printable worksheets can help you in your job search by providing a structured approach to identifying your skills, interests, and values, allowing you to align them with potential career options. This can increase your self-awareness and guide you towards finding a job that is a good fit for you. Are there specific career exploration printable worksheets for different industries or job sectors? Yes, there are specific career exploration printable worksheets available for different industries or job sectors. These worksheets typically provide information and activities to help individuals explore and understand the various careers within a specific industry or job sector. What are the advantages of using career exploration printable worksheets in a classroom or group setting? Using career exploration printable worksheets in a classroom or group setting can provide a structured and organized way for students to explore and examine different career options. It can also encourage group collaboration and discussion, allowing students to learn from each other's experiences and perspectives. Can career exploration printable worksheets help me discover new career paths or opportunities? Yes, career exploration printable worksheets can provide a structured framework for exploring different career paths and help you identify new opportunities by prompting you to consider your skills, interests, and values. How can career exploration printable worksheets assist me in identifying my skills, interests, and values? Career exploration printable worksheets can be helpful in identifying your skills, interests, and values by providing structured activities and questions that prompt self-reflection, allowing you to gain a better understanding of yourself and find patterns and themes that align with potential career paths. Some of the information, names, images and video detail mentioned are the property of their respective owners & once. One of the most important things behind a formal education - besides teaching our students how to think for themselves - is to get kids ready to take on an engaging and exciting career. And a career? Well, that's the foundation to any person being able to financially provide for themselves - what we call, financial independence. That's why I take a real interest in helping kids, tweens, and teens get the best fun career exploration activities resources out there. So that one day, they can find a fulfilling job and be able to earn enough money to not only survive, but thrive. What all is involved in career exploration for students? To be honest, there's a lot to cover here. You want to provide fun and engaging activities for topics like: Understanding Careers: The foundational blocks of understanding how a person earns money, having a job versus working on a career, how to develop your career, etc. Career Interest Assessments: Which careers interest a child's natural abilities and a child's interests? Career Investigation: What does a day look like when holding down a job in one of those career fields that interests a student? What's the salary like? This can include activities in the classroom, research, and also shadowing. Skill Identification and Development: What skills do they need to pursue a job that interests them? What level of education would they need? Understanding How to Get Hired: Things like interviews, creating a resume, job searches, etc. are critical for students to know how to do. Career Stepping Stones: What steps can the student take right now (and before they graduate high school) in order to set themselves just a few steps closer to getting into that career field (i.e. internships, volunteer activities, writing a first resume (here are free teen resume templates), type of afterschool/weekend jobs?) Income and Paycheck Management: Discussing how to not only manage a paycheck from a real-job, but also how to manage your career so that your income more than matches current cost of living needs. Also, going over paycheck taxes, pay type (salary, hourly, commissions), insurance, workplace retirement contributions, and other deductions. When - that list wasn't meant to overwhelm you. Rather, I wanted to inspire you with what an important and life-changing topic you're covering with your students and kids. Plus, to outline some of the areas you can cover with these fun career activities and resources I've found for you, below. First up, let's talk about how to get your kids and students actually interested in career exploration activities. There's no better way to pique a student's interest than to find out what THEY are most interested in learning about. One way to do this is to start off your unit of study with free career assessments. I spoke with the people at Truity.com, and they said a good age minimum to take their free career assessment is 14/15 years of age. The test is free to take, plus you get a basic report with results. You don't even need to have a student register for them to do this! However, if you want to be able to view each of your student's results, you'd have to sign up for a Pro account. This free, 30-question career quiz from the U.S. Department of Labor will help a student figure out some possible career choices. Another career assessment test sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor is O*NET's interest profiler. There are 60 questions in total. Psst: want even more career websites for students? Here's 14 career websites for high school students. Age: 4th Grade Here's a reading passage that's centered around some great career and job terms. The theme of the story is Pixie finding a new job. Assessment questions and a teacher's guide are included. While I don't recommend you center your entire career unit around career exploration worksheets, the ones below can definitely add to students discovering jobs, industries, etc. Suggested Grades: 6-8 Scholastic has some fantastic worksheets and lesson plans to help with career exploration for students. In the "Find Your Right Now Job" worksheet, students will research jobs and apprenticeships around their area of interests to find two jobs that they could apply to (when they're a bit older). Here's a simple, one-page worksheet you can get for free with a free account on Teachers Pay Teachers. It will help focus your student's career research. This free worksheet of fun career activities has an idea that I love - for students to create a family career tree. They'll need to ask family members and do the research, which of course is a great way for kids to understand their loved ones even better (plus to learn a thing or two). With a free Teachers Pay Teachers account, get this simple classroom job application your students can fill out to "apply" for classroom jobs. BizEd has this free, simple worksheet to help your students research a career and salary information. Here's a bunch of different career activities and worksheets for grades 9-12. Worksheets include: Reality Check Worksheet Networking Bingo Speed Interviewing Etc. Looking for more than just career preparedness worksheets? Check out these enter career lesson plans, available for free. Hint: many of them include both worksheets and videos. The National Retail Federation (NRF) has a program called RISE UP, a certifying program with curriculum that helps students and young adults get hired in the retail industry. Check out the RISE UP classroom activities section to find lots of short videos from people actually in the retail industry, answering questions students might have and teaching students about their industry. It also includes a worksheet for each video. Check out Level 3 (for Grades 9 - 12), Module Chart Your Course. It talks about: The relationship between education and careers The opportunity cost of pursuing additional education The importance of monetary and nonmonetary compensation when selecting a job Download an entire lesson plan for high schoolers that includes topics like: Job search techniques Interviewing Adding value as an employee This is a full-year course, with the following units: Unit Plan & Assessments Career Basics Choosing a Career Workplace Skills Finding a Job Your LinkedIn Profile Resumes & Cover Letters Interviewing for a Job Outcomes of a Job Interview Starting a New Job Career Success The state of Louisiana has come up with these free resources to help students explore careers in LA's highest-demand industries. These are project-based learning activities. Honestly, there's a ton here. They've broken it down into the following units: General Resources Portfolio Projects Resources Getting Started Healthcare and Pharmacy Culinary Automotive Service & Repair Construction Crafts/Skilled Trades Information Technology Advanced Manufacturing Transportation and Logistics Business Management and Finance Sales and Customer Service These career games for kids and teens create an engaging way to teach career awareness. Age: 7-9 years Students are asked to brainstorm lots of different careers (it's suggested that they can ask parents, grandparents, and others to come up with ideas ahead of time). Each student writes these ideas onto a piece of paper, and everyone takes turns acting out a career while others try to guess what they're doing. Great for better awareness about career options! Students select different career paths, are given a typical salary, and then are given various spending choices. The amount of money they spend throughout the game is tracked so that they can see, and make any adjustments as needed. Suggested Age Range: 14 years and older Practical Money Skills has come up with another free online career game, and this time it's all about two teenagers trying to start up a business in a competitive atmosphere. Students will have to evaluate business deals, learn how to grow their business, and how to overcome financial challenges in business and in life. Suggested Age Range: 3-5 Being paid by commission is wayyyyy different than getting a salary (or, even, being paid hourly). You have to actually sell something to make any money! This game has your students calculate their commission rates while, at the same time, learning about how auctioneers work in a variety of different places. Here's a set of worksheets to go along with this game. Like it or not, the "gig economy" where people are not full employees of companies, but still accept gigs from them and earn a small or substantial amount of money on the side, seems to be here to stay. So, kids should understand how this can fit into their career and money plans! The Uber Game gives your teen a scenario, such as they have a \$1,000 mortgage payment due in a week, and then asks them to try and earn enough money through accepting gigs in order to pay that bill. Can they do it? Is it hard or easy? Can they sustain themselves on a gig job? Psst: You'll want to check out my 31 free personal finance homeschool curriculum, as some of the resources also have free career resources. When students research a career, they need to look at it from several different angles before deciding if it's possibly on their "Career Hitlist". Here are the different things to research for a career: Find income information. Salary, or hourly pay? What's the range? Do people have this as their only job, or do they need to supplement with a second job to "make ends meet" (i.e. pay all their bills plus save money each month)? Ask People and Watch Interviews: Your student will want to make sure a day in the life of a potential profession is something they'd actually be interested in. Interviewing current employees in a profession, or even watching videos where professionals are interviewed can be really helpful. Find Shadow Opportunities: Students can go shadow a job within your school district, or with a family/friend. Or, they can take part in a Take Your Child to Work Day at their parent's/auant's employer. Psst: Have you ever heard of CareerVillage? Students can ask career-related questions and get them answered by professionals, for free! Students of all ages are accepted, and they'll need to create an account (for free) to ask a question. You want your students to feel what it's like to be on the job in a career path they're researching. Help them to do this by: Career Biographies: There are a vast number of what I like to call career biographies that help a child understand what it's actually like to pursue a certain career field. I've got an article on 22 career books for kids, broken down by age and profession type. Career Videos: These can be really helpful, particularly when funds don't allow for school field trips. MyAmericanFarm.org has a great collection of 3 to 26-minute videos on all different types of agricultural careers. PathSource has an impressive collection of career interview videos. Kids Work! Has a nice collection of career videos for kids (Grades 3-8). You can also search YouTube for "Day in the Life of _____". Career Shadowing: Career shadowing was quite cool when I was in high school. Students should be encouraged to shadow someone at their job, whether it's a parent/family member, or even someone within the school district. Reach out to your principal, vice principal, administrative assistants, and anyone else working at your school district to see if you can set up some job shadowing to go along with your career unit. Career Interviewing: You could have your students brainstorm a list of interview questions for someone in a job they're curious about, and then actually help them find a person to interview either by email or in person. Imagine what they could learn from the experience! Take Your Child to Work Day: My sister and I both took turns taking the train to Washington D.C. to my aunt's, and then she would take us into her job at NBC for a "Take Your Child to Work Day". It was SO neat! It's really a perfect way to get a taste for what a day in a job looks like (not to mention, motivate a child to want to do better at school so they can get some of the cool positions they get to see). Here's how you can do take your child to work day activities. Career Biographies: There are a vast number of what I like to call career biographies that help a child understand what it's actually like to pursue a certain career field. I've got an article on 22 career books for kids, broken down by age and profession type. Career Videos: These can be really helpful, particularly when funds don't allow for school field trips. MyAmericanFarm.org has a great collection of 3 to 26-minute videos on all different types of agricultural careers. PathSource has an impressive collection of career interview videos. Kids Work! Has a nice collection of career videos for kids (Grades 3-8). Career Shadowing: Career shadowing was quite cool when I was in high school. Students should be encouraged to shadow someone at their job, whether it's a parent/family member, or even someone within the school district. 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Career Articles: Comment has some Day in the Life of an Astronaut. Also, ReadWorks has some of these articles. While it used to be difficult to figure out average pay for a career or job type, it's quite simple nowadays thanks to some seriously great, free, resources provided by the Department of Labor. Here's a one-stop salary finder, where you enter the occupation and your location to get an idea of the average pay. It also offers a listing of professions, so students can click around by career cluster (or category) and just explore. Psst: another important thing to make students aware of their research? Are career projections. In other words, is an industry or job path they want to pursue growing, or are the jobs getting scarcer? Here's a great resource from Workforce Solutions (for just the Houston-Galveston area, though it still drives the point home about the importance of this question) that shares percentages for various careers. EverFI has free financial literacy lessons for kids and students, and Lesson 3 is on income and taxes. Students will be given different ideas about careers, as well as the pros and cons to each. Looking for a career project your middle school students will enjoy? Kentucky's Department of Education has a really cool resource - a group of middle school career projects, broken down by 16 different career clusters (and 80 different career pathways within those clusters). Not only that, but they have student work samples for each one! There are projects and exploratory tasks for careers in: Agriculture Marketing Education Finance Human Services STEM ...and ten others The following two tabs change content below. Consider this a post-secondary survival kit. We Are Teachers Success looks different for every person. You can help your high schoolers figure out where to find career satisfaction by getting them the facts on the world of work, their post-secondary options, and their own skills and interests. It's all about making informed decisions, but you need resources for that. Enter: these awesome career exploration worksheets. Career Exploration Note-Taking Sheet: Use a tool like the ASVAB CEP's OCCU-Find to research different careers. Our worksheet includes space for students to take notes on three different careers. It includes spaces for how it fits their interests, how it aligns with their workplace preferences, average salary, and more. Comparing Post-Secondary Paths Tool: For this activity, students will research the cost of pursuing two different paths for a career, taking into consideration several different paths available to them. We recommend they select one of the careers they researched on the prior worksheet to outline two paths. (For example: If a student wants to be a medical assistant, they might go to training school or complete a one-year certificate at a community college.) Post-Secondary Planning Checklist: This list is divided by grade (9-12) and has important steps for students to take for whatever their post-secondary plans are. It covers academics, self-discovery, career exploration, and college/career planning. Résumé Tip Sheet: This isn't your grandparents' résumé. We've got an update-to-date dos and don'ts for students to create a résumé that will really stand out. Get the Career Exploration Worksheet Bundle Helping high school students narrow their career options is an important life skill. At this stage, they need guidance to explore different careers, understand their strengths, and make informed decisions. Here are some practical strategies to make career exploration an engaging and insightful experience for your high schoolers: When you are a teenager, it can be challenging to understand your strengths at such a young age. It helps teenagers take career assessments and even tests about personality traits to help them identify their strengths. This information can be helpful to them throughout their lives. I remember taking one in high school, and it suggested teaching as a career. It gave me a little more confidence to pursue a job in education, knowing that it could be a strength of mine. These are a great way to help students identify their career goals. A career assessment is usually fun for young people because it is about them and their identity and can give them valuable insights into who they are. Download this free personality test for career exploration! Bell Ringers are a great way to start off each class and our Career Exploration Bell Ringers include information about specific careers as well as prompts to get students thinking about their career goals. We love bell ringers because they are bite-sized pieces of information to start off class and can be a great resource for classroom management and creating a positive classroom culture. Allowing students to discuss their answers each day builds rapport and helps them to see different career options that other students may be knowledgeable about. The "Career Exploration Worksheets & Bell Ringer Journal" is a resource designed to help high school students explore various career paths. It includes a variety of worksheets and journal prompts that encourage students to think critically about their interests, skills, and potential careers. This resource provides structured activities to guide students through career exploration, making it an invaluable tool for any high school teacher aiming to prepare their students for the future. Check out our free Career Exploration Bell Ringers to see how you like them! Even high school and middle school students love games! They are a fun way to get students talking about potential career paths without even realizing they are learning! We have a free resource that can be a great addition to your career exploration curriculum...the Career Exploration Vocabulary Bingo Game. Students complete a BINGO board with terms provided, and when you read the descriptions, they will cross out the term. The first student to get 4 across wins. You can also break students up into groups and have them play that way. This is a fun activity to use as review and even for school counselors. Teaching about career clusters is another important beginning step to teaching about career choices. We have a fun Career Clusters Digital Escape Room with students moving through clues about the different career clusters and recording their answers in a Google Form to move to the next clue. These make great sub plans or a fun way to introduce the career clusters covering some of the clusters: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Architecture & Construction Arts, A/V Technology & Communications Business Management & Administration Education & Training Finance Government & Public Administration Health Science Hospitality & Tourism Human Services Information Technology Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Manufacturing Marketing Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Students read information and sort what they learned, they answer questions based on links to websites and watch a video about career clusters to determine an answer to a clue and more! Another fun way to teach career vocabulary is with a board game. This career exploration board game can be played in small groups after reviewing a slideshow of terms. Students move through a game board while answering questions about vocabulary terms such as: What is a legal document that allows a minor to hold a job? Work without pay that can benefit you in your job search is known as _____. If you work 40 hours per week, you are working _____. A one-page letter a job seeker sends along with a resume telling who he or she is and why he or she is sending a resume is called a _____. and more! Vocabulary games like this equip students with terms that can help them when they attend career fairs and internships with local businesses. It will also help them better understand soft skills needed for volunteer work and job interviews. Career education is an essential life skill that all teenagers should learn! Invite professionals from various fields to speak to your class. Many professionals are happy to share their experiences and insights at no cost. These sessions can provide firsthand knowledge of different careers and inspire students to consider new opportunities. Hearing real-life stories and advice from people working in various industries can help students better understand what different jobs entail. Have students create questions to ask the speakers before they enter the classroom, including questions about what higher education or technical education was needed to acquire the job, what interview questions they were asked, and what is expected of them daily. Even questions about salary ranges if the speaker is comfortable sharing them. Showing students that people in their community have jobs in different fields can make a big impact. If you can't have people in person, you can even have Zoom speaker sessions, which can be an excellent way to see possible careers that may not be local. Allowing teens to ask real people with different professions real questions can be an important step in understanding their career opportunities. Assign students a career research project. Have them choose a career that interests them and research the required education, skills, job outlook, and potential earnings. Presenting their findings to the class can help students learn from each other and discover various career options. This exercise encourages critical thinking and allows students to practice presentation skills. You can even have students pair up and present a mock interview for the career they are presenting on. Students will become experts in careers they may not have generally learned about. I love putting the teaching into my student's hands, and your students will appreciate the chance to take on a project! Helping high school students explore careers is essential for their future success. Career assessments, engaging journal prompts, fun games, guest speaker sessions, and research projects can make career exploration both informative and exciting. These activities help your students understand their strengths, discover new interests, and prepare for real-world opportunities. Teaching life skills to teens is one of the best gifts you can give them. They may not realize it yet, but you are equipping them with skills that will impact them for years and help them on their way to successful careers. Start incorporating these strategies in your classroom to guide your students toward fulfilling careers. For more resources and tips, visit Twins and Teaching. Happy teaching! "Find out what you like doing best and get someone to pay you for doing it." - Katherine Whitehorn In every school, in every district, in every state, students are asked to identify their dream job. The ever popular "what do you want to do for a living" question that permeates each discussion with a school counselor. There are plenty of resources out there to explore career interests, to make career decisions, and to find career opportunities. Some are admittedly better than others. The goal here is to provide you with an exhaustive list of ways for students to explore future careers. The grade level this is written for is high school, but that doesn't mean that middle school students can't also benefit from this list. Generally speaking, many middle school students have started to think about different careers already. It's just that high schoolers are a little closer to starting their possible careers, and often the nature of their searching is just a tad bit more urgent. Some of these are paid, some are free. I'm just trying to save you time by providing you with as many different ways to show career research as possible. So let's get started. Career resources A variation of the Myers-Briggs Personality Test, students answer some common questions and are given feedback on their personality type. A fun activity to get your students thinking about who they are and how their life interests, how it aligns with their workplace preferences, average salary, and more. Comparing Post-Secondary Paths Tool: For this activity, students will research the cost of pursuing two different paths for a career, taking into consideration several different paths available to them. We recommend they select one of the careers they researched on the prior worksheet to outline two paths. (For example: If a student wants to be a medical assistant, they might go to training school or complete a one-year certificate at a community college.) Post-Secondary Planning Checklist: This list is divided by grade (9-12) and has important steps for students to take for whatever their post-secondary plans are. 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