



## RESEARCH CAREERS LESSON PLAN

**GRADE: 9-12**

### Key Idea

Students explore careers they are interested in through research on Next Steps Idaho's Browse Careers.

### Essential Question

What do I need to know about the careers I am interested in?

### Evaluation

- Informal evaluation: students discuss findings with peers
- Formal evaluation: students turn in a written reflection

### Adaptations

Students with learning disabilities may work with a partner and/or have extra time to complete their written report.

### Resources and Technology

Student computers or other devices with internet access, slideshow to display questions and directions, student notebooks or devices for writing/note-taking/reflecting.

### Timeframe

One 50 minute class period, with possible homework or a follow-up class period for extension.



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	LEARNING ACTIVITY	TIME
Warm-Up	<p>Ask students to journal about a potential career in which they are interested.</p> <p>Display some or all of these questions for students to consider and journal about what they do or do not know about this career:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What activities does someone with this career do on a daily basis?</li> <li>• What is the typical salary for someone in this career in your region?</li> <li>• What is the entry salary for someone in this career in your region?</li> <li>• What core subjects/electives should you consider taking to prepare for this career?</li> <li>• What kind of education after high school does this career require?</li> <li>• How many people have this career in Idaho?</li> <li>• Which Idaho regions are hotspots for this career?</li> </ul>	5 min
Group Practice	<p>After a few minutes of writing, ask students to discuss this journaling experience with a partner or small group. Was it difficult? Do they feel confident about their knowledge of this career?</p>	3 min
Direct Instruction	<p>Direct students to <a href="#">Next Steps Idaho Browse Careers</a> to gain more knowledge about a career of interest.</p>	2 min
Individual Practice	<p>Ask students to search for their career of interest, and record answers to all of the above questions as well as additional information about the career that interests them.</p>	10 min
Group Practice	<p>Group students back with their original partners or small groups and ask them to share about their findings.</p> <p><b>Discussion questions for partners or small groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After this research are you more or less likely to pursue this career? Explain.</li> <li>• What were you most surprised by about your career choice?</li> <li>• What additional information do you think would be helpful for you to have as you consider your future career?</li> </ul>	10 min



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	LEARNING ACTIVITY	TIME
Closing	<p><b>Reflection writing:</b> Ask students to write a reflection based on their warm-up, notes, and group discussion. Their reflection should include what they learned about their career of interest, how seriously they are considering that career, and what they can do now to prepare for that career. Students should also include how their research about the career may help them make a career decision. Students turn in their reflection for evaluation.</p> <p><b>Extension activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask students to choose a 2nd and possibly a 3rd potential career to explore with the above tools. Ask students to compare these career choices and create a Pros and Cons list for each. Students turn in a reflection comparing the careers and ranking them according to which career(s) they are most likely to pursue.</li> <li>• Alternate warm-up activity: ask students to rank each of the following categories for how important it is to them in a future career, on a scale from 1-5, with 1 being not at all important, and 5 being very important: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The career involves activities that I enjoy</li> <li>• The career has a high average salary</li> <li>• The career is projected to grow in Idaho over the next 10 years</li> <li>• The career makes a difference in the world</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>After students consider and record how they rank each of the above statements, direct students to gather research about one or more careers they are interested in using Next Steps Idaho: Browse Careers. Students can write a final reflection about how their chosen career(s) match up with the categories most important to them.</p>	8 min



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