Explore career matches

8 Recommended:
8th grade

Length:
120 minutes

About this lesson

To develop a personal profile based on an exploration of their interests and values, students will examine their own interests in a self-assessment and investigate how careers are associated to self-identified interests.

Learning objectives:

By the end of this activity, students will

- examine how they feel about different interests
- investigate central, secondary, and other aspects of the career match assessment, and how they relate to careers
- reflect on their results, and explore the aspects for a career that interests them

Driving question

Why am I matched with these careers?

Future-ready skills

Critical thinking   Career awareness   Self-knowledge

Lesson breakdown

20 minutes

Activity 1: My teacher's career path

In this activity, you'll set the stage for Xello's career interest assessment, **Matchmaker**. You'll present a short video, then share your personal career path to teaching to help demonstrate how everyone's journey will be unique.

30 minutes

Activity 2: Matchmaker Phase 1

Direct students to complete the first 39 questions in phase 1 of the **Matchmaker** career interest assessment on Xello. Remind students to be clear about what they like and dislike to ensure the best possible career matches.

30 minutes

Activity 3: Find out why and save careers

In this activity, students will explore their list of career matches after completing the first phase of the **Matchmaker** interest assessment to "Find Out Why" careers have been identified as an excellent, good, fair, or poor match. They will then save 3 careers to their saved options.

40 minutes

Activity 4: Xello Lesson: Explore Career Matches

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson titled **Explore Career Matches** where they'll explore the aspects for a career that interests them and be encouraged to investigate their **Matchmaker** results further.

⬡ Xello entry point

Use this lesson to support the **Matchmaker** career assessment in Xello. Students will better understand where the results come from and how their matches may change over time. Students will also save 3 careers in Activity 3, which is a prerequisite for Xello's **Decision Making** lesson.

Lesson Vocabulary

- Career aspects
- Likes & dislikes
- Interests
- Explore
- Options

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Activity 1: My teacher's career path

8 Recommended:
8th grade

Length:
20 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- What are the benefits of a career assessment?
- Why should I keep an open mind about careers I don't know much about yet?
- When should I hide a career off my list even if it scores high on my **Matchmaker** results?
- Should I hide all my poor match results?
- Why should I think critically about any career assessment results I get?

Teaching strategies

Telling your students about your own journey to teaching, or the role you are in today, is a great way for students to learn that there is no right or wrong pathway to a career. Each person's journey is unique to their interests, skills, and values that will change and develop over time as we learn more about ourselves. What's most important at this point in their journey is to keep an open mind, be reflective as they learn more about themselves, and follow their interests.

1. Before assigning Xello's **Matchmaker** to your students, complete the first phase (39 questions) of the career interest assessment Xello's **Matchmaker** yourself using your **Demo Student Account** and explore your results. Does anything surprise you?

2. Present or share the Understanding your career matches (French) video to ignite your student's curiosity about Xello's **Matchmaker** and help create an environment where everyone can contribute to the discussion.

3. Let students know they will be completing the first phase of the **Matchmaker** quiz in Xello following this discussion.

   Ask your students:

   - "What do you think this tool will quiz you on?" and
   - "What do you hope this tool will provide you with?"

   Tip: If you need a little help explaining **Matchmaker** check out the Students and Matchmaker article on Xello Support.

   Your students might express, "**Matchmaker** will tell me what my future career will be!" Of course this is impossible, but it's important that you level their expectations and set them up for success. **Matchmaker** is not a fortune-teller, but rather another way to explore career options they may not have considered for themselves. It is likely they will receive career results that may not align with their personal values. Helping them see why that is the case will not only help them to understand the way **Matchmaker** works, but will encourage them to be critical thinkers when it comes to their match results.

   For example, it's quite possible for a vegetarian, who has strong values for animal rights, to still be matched with the Butcher career, because the career's Central Aspects (learning new hands-on skills and working with food and drink) could be liked very much, but the quiz does not account for the individual's personal values.

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Understanding your career matches (French)

Artifacts

None for this activity.

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Activity 1: My teacher's career path

8 Recommended:
8th grade

Length:
20 minutes

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4 Tell the story of how you became a teacher. You may want to touch on some of these ideas:

- When did you start to realize you had an interest in working with children? (Central aspect)
- When was your first teaching or training job? Did you know then that a teaching career would right for you?
- Did you always like explaining ideas and information to people or presenting ideas and information in writing? (Secondary aspects)

5 Share your **Matchmaker** results as a way to model critical thinking. Log into your demo student account and from your **About Me** page explore your Career Matches. What surprised you about your results? Were there any matches you'd hide based on your personal values or self-knowledge?

6 Click into a career you know you wouldn't pursue, but returned a high match and investigate **Find Out Why**. For example, many teachers and counsellors receive high matches with the Funeral Director career because central aspects, like considering the feelings, views, and behaviour of people, are liked very much, however, you may know cremating or embalming bodies is a core task you would not be successful at.

7 Direct your students to complete **Activity 2: Matchmaker Phase 1**.

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Activity 3: Find out why and save careers

8 Recommended:
8th grade

Length:
30 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- Will **Matchmaker** tell me what I should be?
- Why is this career an excellent, good, fair, or poor match for me?
- Which careers interest me at this time?

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will explore their list of career matches after completing the first phase of the **Matchmaker** interest assessment to "Find Out Why" careers have been identified as an excellent, good, fair, or poor match, and then they will save their first 3 careers to their saved options.

1 Share the Understanding your career matches (French) video with your students if they haven't already seen it. The short video will help them understand the way **Matchmaker** works and will encourage them to be critical thinkers when it comes to their match results.

2 Provide the instructions on the next page to your students.
- You may want to consider adapting step 1 of the student instructions to be a class discussion.

Materials required

- Student instructions
- Understanding your career matches (French)
- Computers or tablets with internet access

Artifacts

Students will save at least 3 careers to their saved options.

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Find out why and save careers

Student instructions

1 Check out the [Understanding your career matches]([French]) video to see a preview of how Xello's Matchmaker career assessment works and how you're in the driver seat of your results.

2 Explore careers in Xello by sorting the careers by your **Matchmaker** (Interest Match) results. Ask yourself:

- What careers surprise me?
- What careers make sense?
- What is the level of match for a career I am interested in? Does this match result make sense?

3 Click into at least 3 careers with different match results (excellent, good, fair, and poor). Within each career do the following:

- Review the career profile content
- Click on **Find Out Why** to reveal what you like or dislike about this career. Do your answers make sense? If not, update your answer.
- If you updated an answer did the match result change?

4 Select at least 3 careers of interest to save to your Xello saved options. These careers do not need to be excellent matches, but should be options you'd like to investigate further. To review all your saved options click on the heart icon beside your avatar.

5 After saving 3 careers, proceed to the Xello Lesson called **Explore Career Matches** to gain a better understanding of central, secondary, and other career aspects.

6 OPTIONAL: After completing the Xello Lesson, revisit your career matches and dismiss any careers you feel 'blah' about or that don't fit with something you believe strongly in. From the **Explore Careers** page, click **Hide** for any career you want to dismiss so that you can focus on the careers that you want to explore further.

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