

Professional networks



Unit
A foundation for my future
success



Length:
95 minutes

About this lesson

To understand the role networking plays within career industries, students will explore job boards, professional social networks, and industry approved accrediting associations, and reflect on the ways these communities can help lead to career opportunities.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- explore ways to find employment (e.g. job boards, networking, etc.)
- reflect on the advantages and disadvantages to various work search strategies
- research potential employers and career networks in their community.

Driving question

What types of job search strategies will help me land a job?

Future-ready skills

Research skills

Analyzing

Networking

Lesson breakdown

5

minutes

Activity 1: Professional networks mindmap

Provide a collaborative space for students to share a range of professional connections, possibly linked to careers they are interested in. To help with brainstorming, provide probing questions (for example, where do professionals in this career: meet-up? look for job opportunities? upgrade their skills? receive accreditation?). Keep this mindmap to build upon in the exit activity.

45

minutes

Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Jobs and employers

In this activity, students will complete the Xello lesson titled **Jobs and employers** to better understand job search strategies and research potential employers in their community.

40

minutes

Activity 3: Professional networks

In this activity, students will research professional organization networks or accrediting associations for three careers of interest and explain how the services they provide support professionals in this industry.

5

minutes

Exit Activity: Professional connections mindmap

Building upon the warm-up activity, have students add the networks they explored in Activity 2 to the mindmap. Then, ask them to draw lines between networks, identifying how they're related (for example, same career field, regulate professional standards, provide career-related training).



Xello entry point

Students will need to make sure they have saved 3 careers before starting this lesson. It's also recommended that students complete **Matchmaker** assessment (phase 1) and **Explore career matches** lesson.

Vocabulary

- Job board
- Networking
- Responsibilities
- Requirements
- Relevant skills
- Professional standards
- Professional accreditation
- Professional designation

Ontario career studies

B2.4 analyze the role of networking, including traditional and online social networking, in exploring and securing education and career/life opportunities

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Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Jobs and employers



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About this activity

In Activity 1, students were provided with a collaborative space to share a range of professional connections, possibly linked to careers they are interested in.

This activity, which includes completing the **Jobs and employers** lesson in Xello, builds on the previous activity to help students better understand job search strategies and research potential employers in their community.

Inquiry prompts

- What do you need when you're looking for a job?
- How do people find jobs?
- What qualities do you think employers look for in a potential employee?
- Do you think it's more important to work in a job you like or for an employer you like?
- What's the hardest part about finding a job?
- What does networking mean? How can it help you find a job?
- As a potential employee, what are you looking for in an employer?

Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the [Jobs and employers slide presentation](#) to use as a helpful teaching aid before and after the Xello lesson.
2. Review the slides (including the speaker notes section) for discussion strategies and prompts.
3. Update slide 5 of the presentation with your students' Xello sign in format. If you don't know your students' Xello login format check out [Sign in to Xello](#) for support.

Teaching strategies

Use the following strategies to set your students up for success:

- 1 Before students start the Xello lesson, engage them in a classroom discussion using a few of the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up** activity slide of the [Jobs and employers slide presentation](#), or choose your own.
- 2 Help your students log in to their Xello account. Project your screen as you model how to navigate to the lesson using your demo student account. From the student dashboard, click on a lesson to get started. If the lesson you want isn't visible, access it by selecting **View all lessons** below the lessons shown.
- 3 Students finished early? Encourage your students to review the mindmap from Activity 1 to prepare for the next activity.
- 4 Once all students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the [Jobs and employers slide presentation](#) to have them revisit their answers to the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.
- 5 **Classroom discussion strategy: Round robin:** Lead a round robin style

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- [Jobs and employers slide presentation](#)

Prerequisites

- Save 3 careers

Artifacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Jobs and employers**.

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Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Jobs and employers



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discussion in which each person shares their answer to the following inquiry prompt: Do you think it's more important to work in a job you like or for an employer you like?

OPTIONAL: Document the responses. What observations can be drawn about them? What conclusions can be made about what's important to work?

Activity 3: Professional networks



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Inquiry prompts

- What are professional networks and how do they support people within an industry?

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will research professional organization networks or accrediting associations for three careers of interest and explain how the services they provide support professionals in this industry.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.

Materials required

- [Student instructions](#)
- Computers or tablets with internet access

Artifacts

Students will add links to professional networks or accreditation organizations in the **Explore this career: helpful articles** section of the career profile, and reflect on how the professional network provides support for professionals in the industry.

Culminating project tip

Add your students' questions about professional networks to the discussion guide. For example: How do you stay connected with professionals in your industry? How can I begin making connections while I am still in high school?

Professional networks

Student instructions

How do professionals share knowledge, determine standard of practice, and develop their skills within an industry? Developing a professional network will not only help you with job searches, but will help you achieve career goals, learn more about your field, or introduce you to another field you'd like to work in. Complete the following for three saved careers:

- 1 At the top of the profile, choose an emoji to indicate how you feel about this career.
- 2 Research professional organization networks or accrediting associations online. Select one to add to the **Explore this Career: Helpful articles** section of the career profile. Verify the network is applicable to Canadian professionals and is a reputable organization.
- 3 Explain why this professional network is an important organization and how it provides support for professionals in the industry.