

Exploring career factors



Recommended:
9th grade



Length:
100 minutes

About this lesson

To identify factors that may influence their career decisions, students will identify factors that are important to them, understand and prioritize 6 common factors when exploring career options, and rank important factors for 3 saved careers.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- investigate important factors: work/life balance, money, making a difference, education, interests, and career growth
- assess which core factors are important to them when making a career decision
- prioritize core factors that influence their career decisions
- rank important factors for 3 saved careers

Driving question

What factors may influence my career decisions?

Future-ready skills

Respecting differences

Understanding others' perspectives

Prioritizing

Evaluating

Lesson breakdown

15
minutes

Activity 1: Factors for saving a career

Guide students to their **My saved options** in Xello to review 3 career profiles and identify how they feel about the career by choosing an emoji at the top of the profile. Within each career profile have them identify factors that influenced their decision by recording them under the **Explore this career: likes and dislikes** card. "What do you like about this career that influenced you to save it?" Then, have students share their factors with a partner. "When comparing factors, how are they similar or different? Do you agree or disagree with any of your partner's factors?"

55
minutes

Activity 2: Xello lesson: Exploring career factors

Direct students to complete the Xello Lesson titled **Exploring career factors** to help them understand and prioritize 6 common factors when exploring career options.

30
minutes

Activity 3: Asking the important questions

In this activity, students will dig deeper on 3 careers they have saved to make sure they're exploring careers that align with their top factors. They will record their findings in the **Explore this career** section of each career profile.

Xello entry point

Students need to save 3 careers before starting this lesson. It's also recommended they've completed **Matchmaker** assessment and Xello's lesson **Explore career matches**.

Vocabulary

- Career factors
- Career demand
- Education/training
- Career field
- Working conditions
- Earnings/money
- Growth
- Interests
- Making a difference
- Work/Life balance

Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Exploring career factors



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Length:
55 minutes

About this activity

In activity 1, students identified factors that influenced them to save a career in Xello.

Students will now complete the **Exploring career factors** lesson in Xello to help them understand and prioritize 6 common factors to consider when exploring career options.

Inquiry prompts

- How do people decide on a career?
- What do you think most people value most in a career?
- What factors might you think about when evaluating different careers?
- What career factors could you compromise on? What could you not compromise on?
- Do you think everyone should use the same criteria when evaluating careers? Why or why not?

Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the [Exploring career factors 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 suggested 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, take 5 minutes to have them review and consider the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up** activity slide of the [Exploring career factors slide presentation](#), or choose your own. Advise students to keep these questions in mind as they complete the lesson. You will revisit these questions with them in the **Exit activity** afterwards.
- 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? If students have time after completing the Xello lesson, encourage them to visit their **My saved options** and open up a saved career. Have them find 3 online articles related to the career to add to the **Helpful articles** card under **Explore this career**.

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- [Exploring career factors slide presentation](#)

Prerequisites

- Save 3 careers
- **Matchmaker**
- **Explore career matches** lesson

Artifacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Exploring career factors**.

Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Exploring career factors



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55 minutes

- 4 Once students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the [Exploring career factors slide presentation](#) to have students revisit the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.
- 5 **Classroom discussion strategy: Round robin:** Lead a round robin style discussion in which each person shares their answer to the inquiry prompt: What do you think most people value most in a career?

OPTIONAL: Document the responses. Is there a clear consensus in the class?

Activity 3: Asking the important questions



Recommended:
9th grade



Length:
30 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- How well do my saved careers rank on important factors?

Before you begin

- Students will need to have 3 saved careers in Xello.

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will dig deeper on 3 careers they have saved to make sure they're exploring careers that align with their top factors. They will record their findings in the **Explore this career** section of each career profile.

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

Materials required

- [Student instructions](#)
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

For 3 saved careers, students will add their list of important questions to the **My notes** card under the **Explore this career** section and complete the **Important factors** card.

Asking the important questions

Student instructions

- 1 In the Xello lesson titled **Exploring career factors** you identified a list of important questions you'd ask to make sure that any career you're exploring aligns with your top factors. Reopen this lesson in Xello to find this list of questions (under section 4), select and copy the whole list, and then navigate to one of your saved careers.
- 2 In the **My notes** card under **Explore this career** paste your list of questions to guide your investigation into 6 common factors that influence career decisions.
- 3 Work through your list of questions one by one, reviewing the career profile to help you determine how well the career ranks on each factor.
- 4 In the **Important factors** card under **Explore this career** record a star ranking for each factor based on your review of the career profile using your list of questions from the Xello lesson.
- 5 Rank the **Important factors** for 2 more saved careers. Make sure to copy and paste your list of questions into the **My notes** card for these careers as well.
- 6 **OPTIONAL:** After ranking the **Important factors** for 3 saved careers determine which career came out on top. In the **My notes** card of this career, add a written reflection for 3 of your important questions.