

# Getting experience



Recommended:  
9th grade



Length:  
125 minutes

## About this lesson

To understand how getting experience can help students achieve their career goals, they will reflect on skills they are developing now as valuable experiences for their future success and explore different ways they can get work-related experience while still in school.

## Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- identify skills they'd like to use in their future careers
- explore different ways they can get work experience now
- identify several ways to get experience while still in school
- assess which type of experience is best suited for their career interests and goals
- generate a list of school offerings, including courses or specialized programs, that provide an opportunity to gain work-related experience

## Driving question

How can I get work-related experience while still in school?

## Future-ready skills

Self-knowledge

Evaluating

Research

Collaborative

## Lesson breakdown

30  
minutes

### Activity 1: Skills lab

In this activity, students will complete the **Skills lab** assessment to identify how often they'd like to use various skills in their future career and update their **Skills** section. Following the assessment, students will review their updated career matches based on their skill preferences.

25  
minutes

### Activity 2: Work-related skills

In this activity, students will use their **Skills lab** results to review their saved careers and add at least 3 experiences that demonstrate how they are practicing those skills today.

45  
minutes

### Activity 3: Xello lesson: Getting experience

Direct students to complete Xello's lesson **Getting experience** where they will explore different ways they can get work experience now, identify several ways to get experience while still in school, and then assess which type of experience is best suited for their career interests and goals.

25  
minutes

### Activity 4: Work-related opportunities

In this activity, students will explore school offerings, including courses or specialized programs, to learn more about the opportunities available to them to gain work-related experience.

## Xello entry point

Students will complete the Skills lab assessment and update their saved careers based on skills they'd like to use always or often in the future. Using their **Skills lab** results, students will review their saved careers and add at least 3 experiences to the **Experiences timeline** to fulfill the prerequisites for Xello's lesson **Getting experience**. It is also recommended students complete **Matchmaker** and Xello's lesson **Explore career matches** prior to this lesson.

## Vocabulary

- Work experience
- Volunteering
- Skills
- Job shadow
- Co-op or work placement
- Summer or part-time job
- Internship

# Activity 1: Skills lab



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Length:  
30 minutes

## Inquiry prompts

- What skills do I desire to use always or often?
- Which careers match my skill desires?
- Why do I desire to use these skills?

## Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will complete the **Skills lab** assessment to identify how often they'd like to use various skills in their future career. Students will use their assessment answers to update their **Skills** section. Then, students will explore their updated career matches based on their skill preferences.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.
- 2 As an activity wrap-up, share the top 5 saved skills from the **Student work report** from your Xello educator account. Use the group filter to show the results for just your list of students.
- 3 Ask the students to discuss in small groups or share as a class: why do you think these are the top identified skills? Which of these skills appeared in your career exploration and how do they relate to tasks within that career?

## Materials required

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

## Artifacts

Students will complete the **Skills lab** assessment, save at least 3 careers related to their skill preferences, and identify career related skills they like for each.

## Skills lab

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### Student instructions

Your preference to use certain skills over others may help you discover careers that you have not considered before. If you're interested in using a skill always or often in your career, you'll want to make sure that skill is used in your career journey.

- 1 From your Xello **About me** page, complete the **Skills lab** assessment to determine your level of desire to use 35 different skills in your career.
- 2 After completing the **Skills lab** assessment, review your results. Which skills do you want to use always or often? And which skills do you rarely or never want to use?
  - Add the top 3-5 skills that you want to use always or often to your **Skills** section. Rate each skill (1 star = beginner, 2 stars = rising star, or 3 stars = master). Although you want to use these skills always or often it doesn't mean you are a master of them now. You still have lots of time to develop these skills further.
- 3 Which careers share a similar skill set to those you desire to use? From **Explore careers** in Xello, use the **Skills lab** filter to order the list of career matches based on your **Skill lab** answers. Do any results surprise you? Remember you can always **Hide** a career from your match results, if it does not align with your personal values, future aspirations, or lifestyle goals.
- 4 Explore some career profiles with the intention to save at least 3 you'd consider as possibilities for yourself. Within each profile think about the following:
  - **Find out why** the career has been assigned the match level (excellent, good, fair, or poor) by clicking on this option at the top of the profile. Review the overall match calculation and confirm your **Matchmaker** and **Skills lab** answers accurately reflect your likes, dislikes, and preferences.
  - Does the career projection favour well? If not, what factors might be impacting this outlook and how might you need to differentiate yourself within a competitive job market?
  - Do the core tasks and workplace description align with your interests and values?
  - Is your personality style well-suited for this career?
  - Does the mid-range salary meet your lifestyle goals?
- 5 After saving at least 3 careers, within each profile update how you feel about each career, and add why you think you like a particular skill within each career in the **Likes and dislikes** investigate card.

## Activity 2: Work-related skills



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Length:  
25 minutes

### Inquiry prompts

- What skills may I need someday in a career?
- Are there skills I am practising today ones I may use in my future career?
- What's an experience I've had that helped me develop a work-related skill?

### Before you begin

Students will need to have completed the **Skills lab** assessment from Activity 1

### Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will use their **Skills lab** results to review their saved careers and add or update at least 3 experiences that demonstrate how they are practising those skills today.

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

### Materials required

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

### Artifacts

Students will save 3 careers and update their **Experience Timeline** to include 3 experiences that demonstrate how they're practising work-related skills.

## Work-related skills

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### Student instructions

Knowing what skills you may encounter on the job could help you find informal and unpaid work experiences now to help you gain valuable knowledge for your career someday. Following the steps below, access Xello to **Find out why** certain skills are used more often than others in a career and then update or add informal or unpaid work experiences (at least 3) to your **Experiences timeline** to demonstrate how you are already gaining valuable experience.

- 1 From your saved options in Xello, select 3 careers for this activity. If you haven't saved at least 3 careers, navigate to your **About me** page to view your **Skills lab** results. You'll find a list of **Your career matches** at the top of this results page. Explore the list of matches and save those you consider as a possibility for yourself.
- 2 Complete the following for 3 saved careers:
  - From the career profile, navigate to **Find out why** to explore how your **Skills lab** answers impact your career match results. What skills would you use often or sometimes in this career?
  - Look for one skill you desire to use differently. If this is a skill that's used often or sometimes in the career does that change how you feel about the career as a possibility for yourself?
  - Select one skill from the list that is used often or sometimes that you think is important to gain more experience in.
  - On your **About me** page update your **Experience timeline** to show either a current or upcoming experience that has you practising this skill. Make sure to explain what you are or hope to learn about this skill and justify how it relates to the saved career.

## Activity 3 - Xello Lesson: Getting experience



Recommended:  
9th grade



Length:  
45 minutes

### About this activity

In activities 1 and 2, students completed the **Skills Lab** assessment and updated their **Skills** and **Experiences** sections in Xello.

In this activity, students will complete the **Getting experience** lesson in Xello to explore different ways they can get work experience now, identify several ways to get experience while still in school, and then assess which type of experience is best suited for their career interests and goals.

### Inquiry prompts

- What are some examples of experiences you have had at school that have given you skills you could use at work?
- How might hobbies, clubs, or other after-school activities give you skills you could use at work?
- Why is volunteer experience valuable?
- What resources could you use if you wanted to find a volunteer or job opportunity?
- Which is more valuable: paid experience or unpaid experience?

### Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the [Getting experience 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 [Getting experience 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 review their **Experiences** timeline in **About me** and make sure their **Work, Volunteer, Education, and Life** experiences are

### Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- [Getting experience slide presentation](#)

### Prerequisites

- Save 3 careers
- Save 3 experiences

### Artifacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Getting experience**.

## Activity 3 - Xello Lesson: Getting experience



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45 minutes

up-to-date.

- 4 Once students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the [Getting experience slide presentation](#) to have students revisit the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.
- 5 **Classroom discussion strategy: Think-pair-share:** Direct students to choose a partner. Assign each pair one of the suggested Inquiry prompts and give them 2-3 minutes to consider their answers. Then have them turn to their partners and take turns sharing their answers.

**OPTIONAL: Think-pair-share-square:** Once students have shared their answers with their partners, direct them to join up with another pair and take turns sharing their answers.

## Activity 4: Work-related opportunities



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9th grade



Length:  
25 minutes

### Inquiry prompts

- How can I get work-related experience while I am still in school?

### Before you begin

In this activity, students will explore school offerings, including courses or specialized programs, to learn more about the opportunities available to them to gain work-related experience.

- 1 Connect with your school counselling department to see if they'd like to speak to your class about courses or specialized programs that support work-related experiences, such as job shadowing, co-op, internship, skills trade or technology education courses.

### Teaching strategies

- 1 Give your students time to explore Course planner on Xello (if your school has this feature enabled) or provide them an alternate way to explore your school's high school course guide. Have them identify at least 1 work-related opportunity they'd like to consider pursuing.
- 2 Direct your students to add this work-related opportunity to the details of a career-based goal within their Xello **My plans** section. Provide these prompts to help with their career-based goal setting:
  - What work-related opportunity at high school would help you gain experience in this career path?
  - What do you hope to gain by participating in this work-related opportunity?

### Materials required

- Xello **Course planner** feature or your high school course guide
- Computer or tablet with internet access

### Artifacts

Students will update one career-based goal in their Xello **My plans** to include a work-related opportunity that would help them gain experience in the career pathway while still in school.