Lesson plan

My career clusters

Length:
90 minutes

About this lesson

Students will learn about and explore career clusters and set at least 2 career clusters as favourites in Xello.

Learning objectives

By the end of this activity, students will:

- Learn what career clusters are and how they differ from sectors and industries
- Explore career clusters and identify careers in different clusters
- Set at least 2 career clusters as favourites in Xello

Inquiry prompt

- What is a career cluster?
- How can exploring careers within a career cluster help me with my future plans?

Before you begin

1. Confirm that you're able to log in to your student demo account in Xello.
2. Ensure that students are able to log in to their accounts and access **About Me**.
3. Decide how you would like to display the names of the career clusters for your students. Consider projecting [Favourite clusters](#) from your Xello student demo account, via a slide deck, or on a whiteboard in the physical classroom.
4. Create a Xello **Assignment**. This is where students will submit their reflections at the end of the lesson. Add the following prerequisites to the assignment: **Matchmaker**, 3 **Saved careers**, and 2 **Favourite clusters**.

Teaching strategies

1 Before students start the activity, introduce them to the concept of career clusters:

- A career cluster can be viewed like a big group or family of careers that share similar skills and knowledge. For example, if you like to help others stay healthy, you might start by looking at a health-related cluster.
- Each cluster has many different careers, but they all connect to the same main idea (such as helping people or working with technology, for example).
- If you like one career in a cluster, you might like others in that cluster as well.
- A career may fit into more than one cluster.

2 Explain that career clusters, are different than sectors and industries:

Xello entry point

Students should have completed **Matchmaker** and saved 3 careers.

Materials Required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector

Artifacts

- At least 3 saved careers
- At least 2 favourite clusters
- Career clusters reflection in a Xello assignment

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- Students can think of a sector like a giant umbrella. It is the biggest category that groups types of work. Common examples include public and private sectors.
- An industry is smaller than a sector and groups by kinds of products or services offered. A common example is manufacturing.
- A career cluster fits across sectors and industries. For example, careers in a computer related cluster connect to a lot of sectors and industries because many types of businesses and organizations use computers.

3 Direct students to write down 3 careers they're interested in along with the career cluster they think it would belong to.

4 Once students have recorded their guesses, in your Xello student demo account, model going to your **About Me** profile to find the **Favourite clusters** card.

- Engage students in a brief popcorn discussion encouraging them to name careers they believe fit within different career clusters.
- Expand each description to review sample careers and demonstrate how to set a cluster as a favourite. Students will visit this section later to add their favourite clusters.

5 Show students where to find the cluster for a career: click **Explore careers**, choose a career, and under **Related careers**, see its **Career cluster**.

6 Demonstrate how to search for careers by cluster by using filters: from the **Explore careers** page, click **More filters**, and select **Show more clusters**. Point out how students can view their suggested clusters based on their **Matchmaker** results (these will be labeled **suggested for you**).

- Since a career can belong to more than one cluster, it may be helpful to display the profile of a career that belongs to multiple clusters such as researcher etc. to illustrate this and connect to why this is.

7 Instruct students to log in to their Xello accounts.

- Students can start by confirming if the career clusters they guessed for their 3 saved careers were correct and then head to **Explore careers** to filter careers by cluster and conduct their own exploration as modeled previously.
- Direct students to save at least 3 more careers they'd consider for themselves and set at least 2 clusters as favourites.

8 Have students answer and reflect on the following questions in their Xello **Assignment**:

- Which clusters were suggested for you based on your **Matchmaker** results?
- Which 2 did you set as your favourites? Why are you most interested in them?

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