

Why people work



Recommended
3rd grade



Length
50-100 minutes

About this lesson

In this lesson, students will learn what working in a job means and identify the reasons people work, from meeting basic needs to achieving higher goals. They also have the chance to explore some of their work preferences and reflect on how a career they like could help them meet their work goals.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Understand the definition of a job
- Identify the reasons people work, from meeting basic needs to achieving higher goals
- Consider what kind of work environment they prefer
- Explore the ways a career they like could help them meet their work goals

Driving question

Why do people go to work?

Future-ready skills

Career awareness

Comparative thinking

Self-awareness

Lesson breakdown

20-30
minutes

Activity 1 - Mission: Why people work

Direct students to complete **Mission: Why people work**, where they will consider how jobs help people meet basic needs and achieve higher goals.

20-60
minutes

[In-real-life mission: Explore a cool career!](#)

In this extension activity, students set 1 to 3 work goals and then research the profile of a career they like. They make a written, drawn, or video review of how well they think the career matches their work goals. They then upload the artifact to **Storyboard** and reflect on what they learned.

Xello entry points

Students will save 1 career before beginning **Mission: Why people work**. As part of the extension activity, students will upload their worksheet or other artifact to **Storyboard** and reflect on what they learned about the topic and themselves.

Vocabulary

- Work
- Job
- Career
- Training
- Responsible
- Independence
- Fulfilling
- Purpose

Student handouts

Click the link below to open the handout in Google Docs. Click **File** and **Make a copy** to save it to your own Google Drive. Now you can make your changes to the handout before sharing with students! Or, under **File**, click **Download** so you can begin sharing the PDF, as is.

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