School subjects at work

6 Recommended **6th grade**

Length: **95 minutes**

About this lesson

To understand how knowledge and skills developed in school relate to careers, students will explore how a career's core tasks relate to subject areas, investigate ways to use their favorite school subject in a career that interests them, and identify important transferable skills they should continue to build while still in school.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- relate school subjects to various tasks
- reflect on their favorite school subject
- explore ways to use their favorite school subject in a career that interests them

Driving question

How can school subjects help me identify interests that lead to a career?

Future-ready skills

Research   Analysis   Reflection

Lesson breakdown

30 minutes

Activity 1: Subject related core tasks

In this activity, students will explore how a career's core tasks relate to subject areas and share their findings with the class.

45 minutes

Activity 2: Xello Lesson: School subjects at work

In this activity, students will complete the **School subjects at work** lesson in Xello. They will relate school subjects to various job-related tasks and explore ways to use their favorite school subject in a career that interests them.

20 minutes

Activity 3: Keeping your options open

In this activity, students will investigate the entry level responsibilities of 2 saved careers to identify important transferable skills they can start or continue to develop at school.

⬡ Xello entry point

Students will need to save 3 careers before starting this lesson. It's also recommended students complete the **Interests** lesson and supporting activities, where they explore careers by school subjects they're interested in to save at least 3 careers.

Vocabulary

- School subjects
- Arts & Music
- Language Arts
- Math & Computers
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies
- Career core tasks
- Career responsibilities
- Transferable skills
- Proficiency
- Relevancy

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School subjects at work

Activity 1: Subject related core tasks

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6th grade

Length:
30 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- How will I use what I learn in school in my career?
- Do careers require knowledge and skills developed in more than one subject area?

Before you begin

In this activity, students will reflect on how a career's core tasks relate to subject areas and share their findings with the class.

1. Prior to class, prepare these common school subjects as headings in a shared online document or posted around your room on chart paper. If delivering this lesson virtually, you may want to use a spreadsheet, giving each subject area its own sheet in the document.
   - Art & Music
   - Business
   - Computers
   - English
   - Family Studies/Home Economics
   - Languages
   - Math
   - Physical Education
   - Science
   - Shop/Skilled Trades
   - Social Sciences

   Example: Physical Education

Career	Core Task	Subject Area
What career are you interested in?	Which core task will you learn about while you're in school?	Which school subject will help you develop the knowledge or skills needed for the career-related task? And why?
Personal Trainer	Develop personalized fitness programs	I will need to use clear communication skills when writing personalized fitness programs for clients.

   NOTE: If students haven't saved 3 careers, direct them to explore careers in Xello using the **More Filters** button to refine their search to careers related to selected school subjects they're interested in. Have them review a minimum number of career profiles and direct them to save at least 3 they'd consider for themselves. This will add at least 30 minutes to the activity.

Teaching strategies

1. Show students how to review the Xello career profile page of one saved career, and where to find the list of **Core Tasks** within the profile.

2. Have students start with one saved career. For each core task, ask them to

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Chart paper and sticky notes or shared online document/spreadsheet

Artifacts

Students will contribute reflections on career core tasks to a list of school subjects as a way to see how what they learn in school relates to careers they're interested in.

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Activity 1: Subject related core tasks

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⏱ Length:
30 minutes

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link it to one school subject that they think will help them develop skills in this area (referring to the list of subjects you created in advance) .

3 Direct them to choose 2 core tasks for their career to share with the rest of the class. Using sticky notes or recording directly in the shared document, guide students to add the career name under 2 subject areas along with the core tasks and why the school subject will help them. See the above example for Physical Education.

4 OPTION: Have students repeat steps 2 and 3 for two more saved careers.

5 As a class, review each subject area and discuss:

- Are there any core tasks you'd place under a different subject area?
- Did anyone find a career that only related to one subject area?

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Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: School subjects at work

6 Recommended:
6th grade

Length:
45 minutes

About this activity

In Activity 1, students reviewed the Xello career profile page of at least one saved career, linking the core tasks of the career to school subjects they believed would help them develop skills needed for those tasks.

This activity, which includes completing the **School subjects at work** lesson in Xello, builds on the previous activity. Students will relate school subjects to various tasks, reflect on their favorite school subject, and explore ways to use it in a career that interests them.

Inquiry prompts

- If you were in charge of the school, what subjects would you require students to learn? Why?
- What's your favorite subject? Why?
- What subjects do you think are most useful to you now?
- What subjects might be most useful to you in the future?
- Why do you think subjects like math, English, science, etc. are taught in schools?

Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the School subjects at work slide presentation (also available in Spanish) 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 School subjects at work slide presentation (also available in Spanish), or choose your own.

2. Help your students log into 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 lesson shown, or **View lessons** on the left of your screen.

3. Students finished early? If students have time after completing the Xello lesson, encourage them to revisit their saved careers to review the core tasks

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- School subjects at work slide presentation (also available in Spanish)

Prerequisites

- Save 3 careers

Artifacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **School subjects at work**.

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Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: School subjects at work

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Length:
45 minutes

of any they have not yet linked to one or more school subjects. Students can also use the time to explore their dashboard feed, where they'll find content about their saved careers.

4 Once all students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the School subjects at work slide presentation (also available in Spanish) to have them revisit their answers to the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.

5 **Classroom discussion strategy: I used to think/Now I think:** Encourage students to share how important they think what they learn in school will be to a future career. Students can use a scale from 1-3 to rate importance. A rating of 1 equals not important, a rating of 2 equals important, and a rating of 3 equals very important.

6 Ask students if their thoughts about the importance of their school subjects to a future career have changed or stayed the same since completing the Xello lesson. Example: I used to think school subjects were not important (a rating of 1), but now I think they are important (a rating of 2).

7 If their rating has changed, what do they think caused this change in thinking? If their rating has stayed the same, why?

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Activity 3: Keeping your options open

6 Recommended
6th grade

Length
20 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- Will I need to study certain topics to prepare for a career?

Before you begin

1. Ensure that students are able to log into their accounts and access their saved careers and **About me** profile.

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will investigate the entry level responsibilities for 2 saved careers to identify important transferable skills they can start or continue to develop at school.

1 Provide the instructions on the next page to your students:

Materials required

- Student instructions (also available in Spanish)
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will add **Skills** to their Xello **About me** profile, based on career responsibilities that transcend time and context.

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Keeping your options open

Student instructions

Your saved careers can offer clues about what subjects to focus on in school. But most of us don't know how our careers will play out or what careers will exist in the future. Decisions about taking certain subjects are more effective if you think about the options they can create. To keep your options open, it's important to build transferable skills. What skills can you start to build now that will help you in your future career?

1 Take a look at the entry level/career path responsibilities for 2 saved careers under **Sample Career Path** on the Xello career profile. Which responsibilities require skills that you could use in another career or that will continue to be important for years to come?

2 Add these skills to your Xello **About me** profile in the **Skills** section. Then rate your proficiency level of each skill:

- 0 stars = Not available (you haven't learned this skill yet)
- 1 star = Beginner (you have basic knowledge)
- 2 stars = Rising Star (you've successfully applied the skill outside of school)
- 3 stars = Master (you're able to teach others this skill)

3 For each skill you added, think about how you can continue to improve, either in school or at home?

Mantener activas tus opciones

Instrucciones para estudiantes

Las profesiones que guardaste pueden indicarte en qué asignaturas concentrar tus estudios, en el presente o el futuro. Sin embargo, la mayoría de nosotros no tiene idea cómo evolucionarán nuestras profesiones ni de las profesiones que existirán en el futuro. Las decisiones sobre determinados temas son más efectivas si piensas en las opciones que pueden generar. Para mantener activas tus opciones, es importante que desarrolles aptitudes transmisibles. ¿Qué aptitudes puedes empezar a desarrollar ahora y te ayudarán en tu futura profesión?

1. Echa un vistazo a las responsabilidades de nivel inicial y rumbo profesional de 2 profesiones guardadas en **Ejemplo de trayectoria profesional**, en el perfil de profesiones de Xello. ¿Qué responsabilidades requieren aptitudes que podrías aplicar en otra profesión o que seguirán siendo importantes en los años venideros?

2. Agrega estas aptitudes a tu perfil de **Acerca de mí** de Xello, en la sección **Aptitudes**. Luego, califica tu nivel de competencia por cada aptitud:

   - Ninguna estrella = no disponible (aún no adquiriste la aptitud)
   - 1 estrella = principiante (tienes conocimientos básicos)
   - 2 estrellas = estrella en ascenso (aplicaste la aptitud con éxito fuera de la escuela)
   - 3 estrellas = maestro (puedes transmitir esta aptitud a otros)

3. Por cada aptitud agregada, piensa en cómo puedes continuar mejorando, tanto en la escuela como en casa.