

Choosing a career

Students identify their interests and talents after reading a story about characters who explore careers connected to things they like to do.

Learning goals

Big idea

Our interests and talents can help us think about careers that might be right for us.

Essential questions

- What are my interests and talents?
- In which careers can I use my interests and talents?

Objectives

- Understand how our interests and talents can help with choosing a career
- Explore personal interests and talents

What students will do

- Read a story about characters who explore careers connected to their interests and talents.
- Answer questions about the story.
- Identify their own interests and talents.

NOTE

Please remember to consider your students' accommodations and special needs to ensure that all students are able to participate in a meaningful way.

KEY INFORMATION

Building block:

-  Executive function
-  Financial habits and norms

Grade level: Elementary school (2-3, 4-5)

Age range: 7-9, 9-11

Topic: Earn (Learning about careers, Making money)

School subject: English or language arts, Social studies or history

Teaching strategy: Direct instruction, Personalized instruction

Bloom's Taxonomy level: Understand, Analyze

Activity duration: 45-60 minutes

National Standards for Personal Financial Education, 2021

Earning income: 4-1, 4-2, 4-4, 8-1, 8-2

These standards are cumulative, and topics are not repeated in each grade level. This activity may include information students need to understand before exploring this topic in more detail.

Preparing for this activity

- While it's not necessary, completing the "Charting types of pay" activity first may make this one more meaningful.
- Print all copies of all student materials for each student, or prepare for students to access them electronically.
 - You can download the "Money Monsters Learn About Careers" story as a PDF or an animated ePub.
 - To view the ePub file, you'll need a book reader app. Then you can enlarge some of the pictures in the ePub.
 - You also can order free copies of this story or the entire Money Monster storybook series from <https://go.usa.gov/xAfnS>. Shipping takes three to four weeks.

What you'll need

THIS TEACHER GUIDE

- Choosing a career (guide)
cfpb_building_block_activities_choosing-career_guide.pdf

STUDENT MATERIALS

- Choosing a career (worksheet)
cfpb_building_block_activities_choosing-career_worksheet.pdf
- Money Monsters Learn About Careers (story)
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Exploring key financial concepts

People in our lives can have many different careers. We know about some careers, like being a teacher, construction worker, or a nurse. But we may not know about some of the other careers people can have. One way to learn about careers is to talk with family members, friends, neighbors, and other trusted adults to learn about the type of work that they do. A career and a job are different. A job is a specific task that someone does to earn money. A career is a type of work someone has for many years

TIP

Because careers, education requirements, and pay levels change, students should be encouraged to always look for the most up-to-date information.

or their lifetime. For example, someone may have a career as a writer and different jobs writing books, news stories, or web pages during their career.

Thinking about the things you like to do (your interests) and the things you're good at (your talents) can help you explore careers you may enjoy in the future.

Teaching this activity

Whole-class introduction

- Ask students if they've ever been asked what they want to be when they grow up.
 - Ask for volunteers to share their answers to that question.
 - After volunteers share their answer, ask them why they chose that career.
- Explain that the things we like to do can help us think about careers we'd enjoy.
- Explain that a job is different from a career:
 - A **job** is a specific task that someone does to earn money.
 - A **career** is a type of work someone has for many years or their lifetime.
 - For example, someone may have a career as a writer and different jobs writing books, news stories, or web pages during their career.
- Tell students that they'll read a story about a special group of characters called the Money Monsters, who are learning about different careers.
- Tell students that after they read the story, they'll answer questions about it on a worksheet.
- Be sure students understand key vocabulary:
 - **Career:** A type of work someone has for many years or their lifetime.
 - **Earn:** To receive money in exchange for goods or services.
 - **Job:** A specific task that someone does to earn money.
 - **Occupation:** Describes a type of work with associated tasks, education and training, typical wages, work settings, and more. Can be a synonym for career.

NOTE

Reading from the ePub? You can enlarge the pictures by clicking the plus sign icon next to an illustration. The larger image will open in a new browser window.

TIP

Visit CFPB's financial education glossary at consumerfinance.gov/financial-education-glossary/.

Tip for differentiating instruction

The reading level for “Money Monsters Learn About Careers” is third grade. If your students are emerging readers, you may consider reading the story to them instead of having them read it.

Individual work

- Give each student the “Money Monsters Learn About Careers” story and the “Choosing a career” worksheet.
- Students will read the story and complete the worksheet independently, including the reflection questions.

Wrap-up

Ask for volunteers to share their answers to the reflection questions.

Suggested next steps

Consider searching for other CFPB activities that address the topic of earning, including learning about careers or making money. Suggested activities include “Identifying a career” (grades 2–3) or “Comparing careers and income” (grades 4–5).

Find other Money Monster stories for grades K–7 on the Money Monster story page.

Measuring student learning

Students’ answers on their worksheets and during discussion can give you a sense of their understanding.

The answer guide on the next page provides possible answers for the “Choosing a career” worksheet. **Keep in mind that students’ answers to the reflection questions may vary, as there may not be only one right answer.** The important thing is for students to have reasonable justification for their answers.

Answer guide

Money Monsters learn about jobs and careers

1. What is Ms. Learner's career? **Teacher**
2. How many jobs has Ms. Learner had? **Four**

Money Monsters identify their interests and talents

3. What does Foozil like doing? **Being with animals**
4. What is Foozil good at? **Math**
5. What does Gibbins like doing? **Exploring places**
6. What is Gibbins good at? **Talking**

Money Monsters consider careers

7. What is one career Foozil thinks she may enjoy?

Answers may vary but could include:

**Chef
Groomer
Scientist in space**

8. What is one career Gibbins thinks he may enjoy?

Answers may vary but could include:

**Park ranger
Truck driver
Astronaut**

Reflection questions

Answers may vary.