

CL-12C

Career Exploration

Grades 4–5

Post-secondary Planning and Career Readiness

My Future Path

Students explore career groups and jobs in the Rio Grande Valley, connect school subjects to jobs, and compare kinds of training after high school, including financial aid.

HOOK
3 min

TEACH
5 min

PRACTICE
9 min

WRAP-UP
3 min

OPTIONAL EXTENSION
+10 min · Career Path Puzzle

BIG IDEA

Every career has a path, and learning after high school opens many doors.

1 I CAN

- ☐ name career groups and jobs found in the Rio Grande Valley.
- ☐ explain how school subjects connect to jobs.
- ☐ describe kinds of training after high school and how financial aid can help pay for it.

KEY WORDS / PALABRAS CLAVE

career path	camino hacia una carrera
career group	grupo de carreras
certificate program	programa de certificado
apprenticeship	programa de aprendizaje
community college	colegio comunitario
financial aid	ayuda financiera

3 STANDARDS

Texas Model
5th ed., 2018

Post-secondary Planning and Career Readiness

ASCA Standards

Mindsets & Behaviors, 2021

M 6 Understanding that postsecondary education and lifelong learning are necessary for long-term success · B-LS 7 Long- and short-term academic, career and social/emotional goals

Social Studies TEKS

Gr 4 §113.15(c)(11)(A) · Gr 5 §113.16(c)(12)(A)

identify how people in different regions of Texas earn their living, past and present (Gr 4) / compare how people in different regions of the United States earn a living, past and present (Gr 5)

Health TEKS

Gr 4 §115.16(b)(4)(B) · Gr 5 §115.17(b)(4)(B)

explain the advantages of setting short- and long-term goals (Gr 4) / describe benefits of setting and implementing short- and long-term goals and perseverance to achieve those goals (Gr 5). Applied to a story character's career path.

Texas Education Code

TEC §33.007(a)

Each school counselor at an elementary, middle, or junior high school ... shall advise students and their parents or guardians regarding the importance of postsecondary education, coursework designed to prepare students for postsecondary education, and financial aid availability and requirements. Used in the lesson and the family letter.

Texas Education Code

TEC §33.005(b)(1)

a guidance curriculum to help students develop their full educational potential, including the student's interests and career objectives

2 MATERIALS

- ☐ Projector page (p. 4) on the document camera
- ☐ Worksheet (p. 5), one per student, and pencils
- ☐ Extension: Career Path Puzzle cards (p. 6), one set, plus tape and sticky notes
- ☐ Family letter (p. 7), one per student

PREP · 5 MINUTES

- Copy p. 5 and p. 7, one per student. Print p. 4 once.
- Print p. 6 once (card stock if you have it) and cut the 18 cards apart if you plan to do the extension.

4 THE LESSON

HOOK 3 min

SAY “Today we’ll talk about story characters, not real people. Use the names in the stories. At a soccer game at the park, a player twisted his ankle. Two EMTs checked him and wrapped it. Camila, a fifth grader, watched closely and said, ‘I want that job someday!’ Her friend Noah said, ‘You don’t need school for that. You just drive the ambulance.’”

ASK “Is Noah right? What would Camila need to learn?” Take two answers, then say: “EMTs finish a training program, often a certificate program, and pass a test. Every career has a path.”

TEACH 5 min

DO Show the projector page. Read: “A career path is the learning and steps that lead to a career.” Point to each step on the Career Path band. Say, “Math helps electricians measure wire. Science helps nurses understand the body. Reading and writing help every worker.”

SAY “Jobs come in career groups: sets of jobs that use similar skills. Long ago, many people in the Rio Grande Valley earned a living on farms and ranches. Farming still matters here, and today many people also work in health care, education, the trades, public safety and business. Other regions are different: in West Texas, many people work in oil and gas, and in Alaska, many people fish for a living.” Point to the career group cards.

SAY “After high school, there are many kinds of training. A **certificate program** takes a few months to two years. In an **apprenticeship**, you learn on the job and get paid. **Community college** takes about two years. **University** takes about four years or more. **Financial aid**, like grants and scholarships, can help pay for it. And every path needs the job skills: be on time, work as a team and do your best.”

Optional: name nearby options you are sure of, such as the high school’s career classes. Talk about programs, never about students’ own plans.

PRACTICE 9 min

DO · 2 MIN Fact or myth? Read each one. **Fact:** hand flat on the desk. **Myth:** wave your hand side to side. For each myth, a partner fixes it: “I see it differently because ____.”

FACT 1. Harper says, “Math helps electricians measure wire.”

MYTH 2. Leonardo says, “Only a university leads to a good job.”

MYTH 3. Ava says, “If training costs money, there is no way to pay for it.”

FACT 4. Esteban says, “In an apprenticeship, you learn on the job and get paid.”

Item 2: all four kinds of training can lead to good careers. Item 3: financial aid, like grants and scholarships, can help pay.

DO · 7 MIN Worksheet. Students write their name and teacher. Parts 1 and 2 on their own. Part 3: partners talk for one minute, then each student writes.

Answer key. Part 1: dental hygienist–health care, electrician–trades, police officer–public safety, citrus grower–agriculture, librarian–education, bank manager–business. Part 2: science, math or reading; a certificate program, community college or university; any step for this year, such as finishing science work on time. Part 3: financial aid can help pay; she could start at community college.

WRAP-UP 3 min

SAY “Here is one path for Rubén: science and math now, health science classes in high school, then a certificate program, community college or university, and then a career as a nurse. Financial aid can help him pay.”

CHECK “Gael wants to be a welder. Name one school subject that helps him and one kind of training after high school.” (Math or science; a certificate program or an apprenticeship.) Give the family letters to the teacher for take-home folders.

Short on time? Use fact-or-myth items 2 and 3 only, and do worksheet Part 3 as a class discussion before students write.

5 OPTIONAL EXTENSION · 10 MINUTES

Career Path Puzzle. Groups of 3 or 4 each build one career path: a job + the school subjects that help + the training after high school. Up to six groups.

- 1 Give each group one Job card. Tape the Subject cards in one row on the board and the Training cards in a row below (1 minute).
- 2 Groups find the Subject card and the Training card that complete their path and write the three card numbers on a sticky note (4 minutes).
- 3 Each group reads its path aloud and says why the subjects help. Classmates check it or respectfully disagree: "I see it differently because ____" (5 minutes).

Key: Job 1 + Subjects 4 + Training 6 · J2 + S3 + T4 · J3 + S6 + T2 · J4 + S1 + T3 · J5 + S2 + T1 · J6 + S5 + T5. Groups write on sticky notes, so the cards stay clean. No time to cut? Show page 6 on the document camera and build the paths as a class.

6 SUPPORT EVERY LEARNER

EMERGENT BILINGUALS

Point out cognates: *carrera*, *certificado*, *universidad*, *colegio comunitario*, *financiera*, *técnico*, *electricista*. Partners may talk in Spanish first. Frames: "A ____ uses ____ because ____." and "I see it differently because ____."

EXTRA SUPPORT

Read Part 1 aloud and do the first match together. In Part 2, students may pick answers from the projector page. In the extension, pair a strong reader with each group.

STRETCH

Ask: "Why might Ximena start at community college and then move to a university?" (It can cost less, and many classes can transfer.) Early finishers compare how people earn a living in the Valley, West Texas and Alaska.

7 QUICK CHECK

During fact or myth: if many students call item 2 a fact, show the four training cards on the projector again before the worksheet.

After class: I collect the worksheets and sort Part 3 into "names financial aid or another path" and "not yet." They go home through the teacher the next day.

The worksheet is about story characters, not the child, so it is fine to collect.

9 KEEP IT GOING SCHOOLWIDE · CYCLE 12

MORNING ANNOUNCEMENT

EN "Good morning, Yellow Jackets! Every career has a path. Today, notice how math, science and reading help workers in the Rio Grande Valley do their jobs."

ES "¡Buenos días, Yellow Jackets! Cada carrera tiene un camino. Hoy, fíjense en cómo las matemáticas, las ciencias y la lectura ayudan a los trabajadores del Valle a hacer su trabajo."

8 PICTURE BOOKS (OPTIONAL)

Turning Pages: My Life Story by Sonia Sotomayor (Philomel, 2018). Spanish edition: *Pasando páginas*. The Supreme Court justice tells how books and school helped her on her path. It mentions her diabetes and her father's death; preview it first.

The lesson works without a book. Preview any book before you read it to a class.

HALLWAY IDEA

Post a big paper road called "Yellow Jacket Career Paths" near the library. Each 4–5 class adds one career path from the extension (job, subjects, training), signed with its class name, such as "Room 21."

TEACHER TIP

Connect subjects to jobs as you teach: "Fractions? Electricians and cooks use them every day."

If a student shares something personal: keep the lesson on the characters. "Thanks for telling me. Let's think about what Rubén could do." If what the student said worries me, I follow up after the lesson using district procedures and my reporting guides (LR-01, CS-01).

Every career has a path.

A career path is the learning and steps that lead to a career.

Career Path · Steps that lead to a career

1 

School
subjects now

2 

High school

3 

Training after
high school

4 

A career

Materias · Preparatoria · Capacitación después de la preparatoria · Carrera



**Certificate
program**
a few months
to 2 years



Apprenticeship
learn on the job and
get paid



**Community
college**
about 2 years



University
about 4 years
or more



Financial aid can help pay for training.

Valley Career groups in the Rio Grande Valley



Health care



Education



Agriculture



Trades



Public safety



Business

Name _____

Teacher _____

Following a Career Path

A career path is the learning and steps that lead to a career.

Part 1 Career groups Draw a line from each job to its career group.



dental hygienist



Agriculture



electrician



Business



police officer



Health care



citrus grower



Education



librarian



Trades



bank manager



Public safety

Part 2 Map Rubén's path Read. Then help Rubén plan.

Rubén, a fifth grader, wants to be a nurse someday. His long-term goal is to care for patients at a clinic in the Valley. Nurses use science and math every day.



A school subject that helps Rubén: _____

Training he could choose after high school: _____

A short-term goal for Rubén this year: _____

Part 3 Talk it out Talk with a partner. What could Ximena say to Tomás?

Ximena loves math and building. She wants to be an engineer. Tomás tells her, "University costs too much. Don't even try."



I see it differently because _____

Career Path Puzzle

✂ Cut on the dashed lines.

Build a career path: one Job card + the Subjects card that helps + the Training card that fits. Write your three card numbers on a sticky note.

JOB #1  Medical assistant (health care): helps doctors with patients.	JOB #2  Electrician (trades): puts in and fixes wires, lights and outlets.	JOB #3  Teacher (education): helps students learn every subject.
JOB #4  Police officer (public safety): keeps the community safe.	JOB #5  Veterinary technician (agriculture): helps the vet care for animals.	JOB #6  Accountant (business): keeps track of a company's money.
SUBJECTS #1  Social studies and writing: know the laws and write clear reports.	SUBJECTS #2  Science and math: learn how animal bodies work and measure carefully.	SUBJECTS #3  Math and science: measure wire and learn how electricity works.
SUBJECTS #4  Science and reading: learn how the body works and read charts.	SUBJECTS #5  Math and technology: add up numbers and use spreadsheets.	SUBJECTS #6  Reading, writing and every subject: you have to know it to teach it.
TRAINING #1  Community college: about 2 years, for an associate degree.	TRAINING #2  University: about 4 years for a degree, plus a state teaching certificate.	TRAINING #3  Police academy: a training program, then a state license.
TRAINING #4  Apprenticeship: a few years of learning on the job, with pay.	TRAINING #5  University: about 4 years or more, with many math and business classes.	TRAINING #6  Certificate program: about 1 year at a college or training school.

My Future Path

Mi camino hacia el futuro

Family letter · Carta para la familia · Grades 4–5 · Grados 4–5



ENGLISH

Dear Family,

This week, your child's class had a lesson about **career paths** with the school counselor. A career path is the learning and steps that lead to a career. We explored jobs in the Rio Grande Valley, how school subjects connect to jobs, and the kinds of training after high school.

PATHS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Certificate program: a few months to 2 years · **Apprenticeship:** learn on the job and get paid · **Community college:** about 2 years · **University:** about 4 years or more. **Financial aid**, like grants and scholarships, can help pay for training and college.

TRY THIS AT HOME

1. When you see a worker in your community, wonder together: "What school subjects help in that job? What training comes after high school?"
2. When your child practices math or reading, connect it to a job: "Cooks and electricians use fractions every day."

TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

"What school subjects help a nurse, an electrician or a teacher?"

Your child may bring home a worksheet about Rubén and Ximena, two story characters. Ask your child what path Rubén could take to become a nurse. Texas asks school counselors to talk with families about why learning after high school matters. To learn more about training or financial aid, please call me.

You are welcome to see any counseling lesson or handout. Call the school office at **956-262-4741** and ask for me.

Mrs. Handy, School Counselor

ESPAÑOL

Estimada familia:

Esta semana, el grupo de su hijo(a) tuvo una lección sobre **los caminos hacia una carrera** con la consejera escolar. Un camino hacia una carrera es lo que se aprende y los pasos que llevan a una carrera. Conocimos trabajos del Valle, cómo se relacionan las materias con los trabajos y qué tipos de capacitación hay después de la preparatoria.

CAMINOS DESPUÉS DE LA PREPARATORIA

Programa de certificado: de unos meses a 2 años · **Programa de aprendizaje** (*apprenticeship*): se aprende trabajando, con sueldo · **Colegio comunitario** (*community college*): unos 2 años · **Universidad:** unos 4 años o más. La **ayuda financiera**, como becas y subvenciones, puede ayudar a pagar los estudios.

PARA PRACTICAR EN CASA

1. Cuando vean a un trabajador en su comunidad, platiquen: "¿Qué materias le sirven en ese trabajo? ¿Qué estudios necesita después de la preparatoria?"
2. Cuando su hijo(a) practique matemáticas o lectura, relaciónelo con un trabajo: "Los cocineros y los electricistas usan fracciones todos los días."

PARA PLATICAR EN FAMILIA

"¿Qué materias escolares le sirven a un enfermero, a una electricista o a un maestro?"

Es posible que su hijo(a) traiga a casa una hoja de trabajo sobre Rubén y Ximena, dos personajes de cuento. Pídale que le cuente cómo podría Rubén llegar a ser enfermero. En Texas, los consejeros escolares deben hablar con las familias sobre la importancia de estudiar después de la preparatoria. Para saber más sobre la capacitación o la ayuda financiera, llámeme.

Puede ver cualquier lección o material de consejería cuando guste. Llame a la escuela al **956-262-4741** y pregunte por mí.

Sra. Handy, consejera escolar