

Comparing Careers



Concept
Learning Skills



Length
15-55 Minutes



Recommended
3rd Grade

About This Lesson

In this lesson, students learn about the Xello career groups through a flash card game and investigate career profiles within the software to help them understand the skills and knowledge needed to solve a fictional community problem.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this activity, students will

- Understand some of the similarities and differences between jobs;
- Demonstrate how people in different jobs work together.

Driving Question

What are career groups for?

Future-Ready Skills

Career Awareness

Critical Thinking

Evaluating

Lesson Breakdown

10-15
minutes

Activity 1 - Wave the Card

In this activity, students demonstrate what they already know about careers by choosing a career card that matches a description.

15-20
minutes

Activity 2 - Career Venn Diagrams

In this activity students compare and contrast 2 careers to understand how some jobs are similar and different.

15-20
minutes

Activity 3 - Community Solvers

In this activity, students identify people in careers who can help resolve a problem in a fictional community.

5-10
minutes

Exit Activity - Explore Career Groups and Like Careers

Have students keep exploring the careers by the 6 career groups in Xello Elementary. Encourage them to like (save) the careers that interest them to see if careers in one group are more appealing to them than those in any other group.

Xello Entry Point

Xello's career profiles describe a wide range of jobs in 6 career groups: building and fixing, business, creative, health, helping, and nature. You can use the career groups and profiles as an entry point to this lesson.

Lesson Vocabulary

- Career
- Job
- Career Group / Cluster
- Compare
- Contrast
- Venn Diagram

ASCA Standards

M 6. Positive attitude toward work and learning

B-LS 5. Apply media and technology skills

B-LS 9. Gather evidence and consider multiple perspectives to make informed decisions

Wave the Card



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Inquiry Prompts

- How are some careers the same?
- How are similar careers different?
- What kind of career sounds the most interesting to you (e.g. one where you work in a hospital, work with children, etc.)?

Instructions

In this activity, students demonstrate what they already know about careers by choosing a career card that matches a description. As well, they gain a basic understanding of how some careers can share certain characteristics like workplaces, tasks, and skills required.

- 1 Pass out the [career cards](#) to students individually, or have students work in groups.
- 2 Explain to students that you're going to give a series of clues. Students who have the career card that answers the clue should hold up their card.
- 3 Choose some of the following clues to read to students. Wave the card of someone who:
 - Works in a hospital
 - Works with children
 - Works with tools (like a saw, wrench, or hammer)
 - Works with money
 - Helps people in trouble
 - Makes something creative
 - Works outside
 - Works in a school
 - Works with computers
- 4 Discuss with students all the careers match the clue. Can they think of any other careers that are similar?

Message to students: Some careers share a task or goal. For example, both police officers and firefighters keep people safe. Others may work in the same place. For instance, both a cashier and a manager may work in a grocery store. And lots of careers require the same skills. A teacher and a politician both have to be good at communication to make sure people understand them. Can you think of other ways that careers can be similar?

Materials Required

- [Wave the Card career cards](#)
(one set per student or group)

Artifacts

None for this activity

Wave the Card - Career Cards



Nurse

Nurses take care of patients and help them get better.



Rofer

Roofers build and fix the roofs on homes and other buildings.



Coast Guard

The Coast Guard watches over oceans, lakes, and rivers across the country.



Florist

Florists are artists who work with flowers and plants.



Medical Secretary

Medical secretaries do paperwork and greet clients in hospitals and medical offices.



Police Officer

Police officers keep people safe. They make sure people obey the law.



Bicycle Mechanic

Bicycle mechanics fix and tune up bikes.



Software Engineer

Software engineers research, design, and test computer software.



Elementary School Teacher

Elementary school teachers teach students from kindergarten to 6th grade.



Money Manager

Money managers control and invest large amounts of money for big companies.



Beekeeper

Beekeepers look after hives of bees.



Crossing Guard

Crossing guards help kids safely cross streets on their way to and from school.

Wave the Card - Career Cards



Librarian

Librarians manage collections of books and other resources.



Set Designer

Set designers create the sets for TV shows, films, and plays.



Fundraiser

Fundraisers raise money and awareness for all kinds of causes.



Welder

Welders heat up and connect metal pieces. They weld metal for buildings, cars, bridges, and more.



Nanny

Nannies look after children in people's homes.



Photographer

Photographers take pictures that tell stories or record events.



IT Support Specialist

IT support specialists are experts at handling computers and networks.



Principal

Principals make sure schools run smoothly.



Bank Teller

Bank tellers help customers with their money at a bank.



Firefighter

Firefighters put out fires and deal with other emergencies.



Farmer

Farmers raise and sell crops and animals.



Family Physician

Family physicians are doctors who look after people of all ages.

Career Venn Diagrams



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Length
15-20 Minutes

Inquiry Prompts

- Why would you want to know how jobs are similar/different?
- How do similarities and differences in careers help people pick their jobs?

Instructions

In this activity students compare and contrast 2 careers to understand how some jobs are similar and different.

- 1 Define career groups (or clusters) for students. Ask them what kind of jobs they think they'll find in the 6 career groups in Xello Elementary: building and fixing, business, creative, health, helping, and nature.
- 2 Hand out a [Venn diagram worksheet](#) to each student.
- 3 Ask students to use Xello to research 2 careers from the same career group. To see career groups, students should go to the **Careers** section of Xello and select **Career Groups**.
- 4 In the parts of the circles that don't overlap, students should list all the ways each career is unique.
- 5 Where the circles overlap, they should list the characteristics that the 2 careers share.

Message for students: Career groups help people find jobs that are similar so they can start thinking about the things they like in a job. Knowing how jobs are the same can help adults find a career they might like. If they like a career's tasks, workplace, or using the skills required for the job, they may also like a career that shares the same characteristics.

Materials Required

- [Career Venn Diagram worksheet](#)
- Pencils, colored pencils, or markers
- Computers (tablets, phones) with Internet access

Artifacts

Upload students' Venn diagrams to **Storyboard**, where they can reflect on the similarities and differences between careers. Students can also like the career profiles in Xello that appeal to them most.

Career Venn Diagram

Career: _____

Career: _____

What makes this
career unique?

What makes this
career unique?

What characteristics
do both careers share?

Name: _____

Community Solvers



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Length
15-20 Minutes

Inquiry Prompts

- Why do we need different jobs?
- What would it be like if everyone had the same job?
- What jobs help make our school or community work?

Instructions

In this activity, students identify people in careers who can help resolve a problem in a fictional community. The activity gives students the chance to solve the problem with a unique team of workers, underlining the idea that some tasks can be handled by multiple career practitioners.

- 1 Give each student a [Community Solvers activity sheet](#). There are 6 worksheets, each with a different scenario. You can have students work on the same scenario, individually or in small groups, or distribute the sheets to students work on various scenarios.
- 2 Explain to students that they are going to research and find someone in a career who can help solve the problem described on their worksheet. They need to be able to explain what the person does in their job, the career group the job belongs in, and the skills, tools, or knowledge they might use to fix the problem.
- 3 Help students log in to Xello and locate the **Careers** section.
- 4 When they've found a suitable job, students should record the information on their worksheets and draw a picture of the person in the career fixing the problem.
- 5 If some students were given the same problem to solve, point that out. Ask if they all picked the same career as the resolution.

Message for students: It takes people in lots of different careers to make a community work. But that doesn't mean that some careers don't share the same goals, like helping people or working in nature. What other careers have you seen in your community? What career groups do you think they belong to?

Materials Required

- [Community Solvers activity sheets](#)
- Pencils, colored pencils, or markers
- Computers (tablets, phones) with Internet access

Artifacts

Upload students' community solver worksheets to **Storyboard**, where they can reflect on how people in different jobs work together to get things done.

Community Solvers

Uh oh! A dog has hurt his paw.



A person in what career can help? _____

What career group is this job in? _____

What tools, skills or knowledge will this person in the career use? _____

Draw a picture of the person in the career solving the problem.

Name: _____

Community Solvers

Uh oh! The park needs a new basketball court.



A person in what career can help? _____

What career group is this job in? _____

What tools, skills or knowledge will this person in the career use? _____

Draw a picture of the person in the career solving the problem.

Name: _____

Community Solvers

Uh oh! The school needs to buy new computers.



A person in what career can help? _____

What career group is this job in? _____

What tools, skills or knowledge will this person in the career use? _____

Draw a picture of the person in the career solving the problem.

Name: _____

Community Solvers

Uh oh! The fall fair needs entertainers.



A person in what career can help? _____

What career group is this job in? _____

What tools, skills or knowledge will this person in the career use? _____

Draw a picture of the person in the career solving the problem.

Name: _____

Community Solvers

Uh oh! A couple needs a cake for their wedding.



A person in what career can help? _____

What career group is this job in? _____

What tools, skills or knowledge will this person in the career use? _____

Draw a picture of the person in the career solving the problem.

Name: _____

Community Solvers

Uh oh! Someone has a painful sunburn and wants to feel better.



A person in what career can help? _____

What career group is this job in? _____

What tools, skills or knowledge will this person in the career use? _____

Draw a picture of the person in the career solving the problem.

Name: _____