

Career Backup Plans



Unit
What I Want for Myself



Length
90 Minutes

About This Lesson

To identify postsecondary back-up options, students will investigate similar careers to those they have expressed interest in, learn why it's important to plan alternate routes, and research how a postsecondary learning pathway can lead to more than one career option.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson students will:

- investigate related careers
- understand the importance of career backup plans
- explore potential backup careers for themselves
- research learning pathways as a way to identify backup careers

Driving Question

Does having a backup plan mean giving up my dream career?

Future-Ready Skills

Planning

Skill Building

Critical Thinking

Decision Making

Lesson Breakdown

30
minutes

Activity 1 - Similar Careers

In this activity, students will review the career profile of their dream career; investigate related careers that may match their interests, skills, or aspirations; and reflect on why these may be good alternate routes.

40
minutes

Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Career Backup Plans

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson: **Career Backup Plan** to help them understand the importance of exploring alternate routes and prepare them for unexpected obstacles to give them confidence to achieve their goals.

20
minutes

Activity 3 - Research Backup Careers

In this activity, students will research education or training programs for a saved career and identify related careers within that learning pathway that they'd consider for a backup plan.



Xello Entry Point

Students need to save 3 careers before starting this lesson. It's recommended they've completed **Matchmaker** and Xello's lessons **Explore Career Matches** and **Discover Learning Pathways**.

Vocabulary

- Career-related skills
- Transferable skills
- Obstacles
- Limiting factors
- Alternate routes

Ontario Career Studies

B3.1 use a research process to identify and compare a few postsecondary options that suit their aspirations, skills, interests, values, and personal circumstances

Activity 1 - Similar Careers



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Inquiry Prompts

- Are there alternate routes to my dream career?
- Can I feel fulfilled in more than one career?

Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will review the career profile of their dream career; investigate related careers that may match their interests, skills, or aspirations; and reflect on why these may be good alternate routes.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.

Materials Required

- [Student Instructions](#)
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will update their saved careers, adding details to the **Likes and Dislikes** and **My Notes** cards for 3 saved careers.



Culminating Project Tip

Add your students' questions about career backup plans to the discussion guide. For example: How has learning and development impacted your career path?

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Similar Careers

Student Instructions

Whether you have sights on one career path for yourself or are still trying to decide your dream career, recognizing the skills and interests you'd like to use in your future is an excellent way to identify and prepare for alternative career paths.

- 1 Review your saved careers in Xello. Based on the profile information and your rating of important factors, which one would you list as your top career choice? For this career, update how you feel about it (**Love it, Like it a lot, or It's a possibility**).
- 2 Review the career profile and add 3 likes to the **Likes and Dislikes** card.
- 3 Look at the list of similar careers on the career profile and explore those that interest you.
- 4 Evaluate the similar careers and select 2 that you'd genuinely consider as alternate options to your top choice. After saving each career, select how you feel about this career, and record the following in the **Explore This Career** section:
 - Add 2 ideas to the **Likes and Dislikes** card to justify why this is a possible backup career. Hints: Are education/training admission requirements easier to attain? Is the career outlook in higher demand? Are there fewer people in the field resulting in a less competitive job market? Are my skills and interests a strong match? How could this career lead me to my dream job?
 - Write a short reflection in the **My Notes** card:
 - What makes this career similar to your top choice?
 - What would be most fulfilling about working in this career?
 - What would you look forward to most if you worked in this career?

Activity 3 - Research Backup Careers



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Inquiry Prompts

- How will postsecondary education or training influence my career opportunities?
- How likely will postsecondary education or training lead me to my dream career?

Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will research education or training programs for a saved career and identify related careers within that learning pathway that they'd consider for a backup plan.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.

Materials Required

- [Student Instructions](#)
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will save one postsecondary education program linked to a career of interest and add a weblink to the school's program in the program **Storyboard** with details about associated employment opportunities.



Culminating Project Tip

Add your students' questions about career backup plans to the discussion guide. For example: How has learning and development impacted your career path?

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Research Backup Careers

Student Instructions

As much as you plan and focus on a goal you never know what life might throw at you, sending you on a new course. For example, you may enroll in a postsecondary training or education program with one career goal in mind, but your learning and development may lead you in a different direction. For one saved career:

- 1 Read the **Education & Training** section of the career profile.
- 2 Explore a few of the **Related Programs** and save one that interests you.
- 3 Look at the **Related Careers** list on the program profile, are there any new careers listed here that interest you? If yes, review the profile and save it.
- 4 Open a new browser tab and search for the program and school webpage. Most programs will describe or list after graduation employment opportunities or potential career paths. Are there any new careers listed here that interest you?
- 5 Back in Xello, return to the program profile page. Add the weblink to the program's **Storyboard** and include details about the related careers in the text field. Then spend some time exploring this career in Xello or online, evaluating whether this career would make a good backup plan or not.