

Getting Experience



Unit
Making It Real



Length
75 Minutes

About This Lesson

To understand how getting experience would help students achieve their career goals, they will reflect on skills they are developing now as valuable experiences for their future success and explore different ways they can get work-related experience while still in school.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- identify skills they'd like to use in their future careers
- explore different ways they can get work experience now
- identify several ways to get experience while still in school
- assess which type of experience is best suited for their career interests and goals
- generate a list of school offerings, including courses or specialized programs, that provide an opportunity to gain work-related experience

Driving Question

How can I get work-related experience while still in school?

Future-Ready Skills

Self-knowledge

Evaluating

Research

Collaborative

Lesson Breakdown

25
minutes

Activity 1 - Work-related Skills

In this activity, students will use their **Skills Lab** results to review their saved careers and add at least 3 experiences that demonstrate how they are practicing those skills today.

25
minutes

Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Getting Experience

Direct students to complete Xello's lesson **Getting Experience** where they will explore different ways they can get work experience now, identify several ways to get experience while still in school, and then assess which type of experience is best suited for their career interests and goals.

25
minutes

Activity 3 - Work-related Opportunities

In this activity, students will explore school offerings, including courses or specialized programs, to learn more about the opportunities available to them to gain work-related experience.



Xello Entry Point

Using their **Skills Lab** results, students will review their saved careers and add at least 3 experiences to the **Experiences Timeline** to fulfill the prerequisites for Xello's lesson **Getting Experience**. It is also recommended students complete **Matchmaker** and Xello's lesson **Explore Career Matches** prior to this lesson.

Vocabulary

- Work experience
- Volunteering
- Skills
- Job shadow
- Co-op or work placement
- Summer or part-time job
- Internship

Ontario Career Studies

A2.2 reflect on and document the process of developing and revising goals, commenting on the effectiveness of the strategies they have used in the process and identifying areas where more work may be needed

B3.2 identify the pathways towards their preferred destinations, including the courses and/or specialized programs that lead to the destination and meet the requirements for a secondary school certificate or diploma, as well as the supports available at school and in the community that can enhance their secondary education

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Activity 1 - Work-Related Skills



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Inquiry Prompts

- What skills may I need someday in a career?
- Are there skills I am practising today one's I may use in my future career?
- What's an experience I've had that helped me develop a work-related skill?

Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will use their **Skills Lab** results to review their saved careers and add or update at least 3 experiences that demonstrate how they are practicing those skills today.

- 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 3 careers and update their **Experience Timeline** to include 3 experiences that demonstrate how they're practising work-related skills.



Culminating Project Tip

Add your students' questions about getting experience to the discussion guide. For example: Can you recommend any job shadowing or co-op experiences for high school students in this field?

Continued on next page

Work-Related Skills

Student Instructions

Knowing what skills you may encounter on the job could help you find informal and unpaid work experiences now to help you gain valuable knowledge for your career someday. Following the steps below, access Xello to **Find Out Why** certain skills are used more often than others in a career and then update or add informal or unpaid work experiences (at least 3) to your **Experiences Timeline** to demonstrate how you are already gaining valuable experience.

- 1 From your saved options in Xello, select 3 careers for this activity. If you haven't saved at least 3 careers, navigate to your **About Me** page to view your Skills Lab results. You'll find a list of **Your Career Matches** at the top of this results page. Explore the list of matches and save those you consider as a possibility for yourself.
- 2 Complete the following for 3 saved careers:
 - From the career profile, navigate to **Find Out Why** to explore how your Skills Lab answers impact your career match results. What skills would you use often or sometimes in this career?
 - Look for one skill you desire to use differently. If this is a skill that's used often or sometimes in the career does that change how you feel about the career as a possibility for yourself?
 - Select one skill from the list that is used often or sometimes that you think is important to gain more experience in.
 - On your **About Me** page update your **Experience Timeline** to show either a current or upcoming experience that has you practising this skill. Make sure to explain what you are or hope to learn about this skill and justify how it relates to the saved career.

Activity 3 - Work-Related Opportunities



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Inquiry Prompts

- How can I get work-related experience while I am still in school?

Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will explore school offerings, including courses or specialized programs, to learn more about the opportunities available to them to gain work-related experience.

- 1 Connect with your school counselling department to see if they'd like to speak to your class about courses or specialized programs that support work-related experiences, such as job shadowing, co-op, internship, skills trade or technology education courses.
- 2 Then give your students time to explore **Course Planner** on Xello (if your school has this feature enabled) or provide them an alternate way to explore your school's high school course guide. Have them identify at least 1 work-related opportunity they'd like to consider pursuing.
- 3 Direct them to add this work-related opportunity to the details of a career-based goal within their Xello **My Plans** section. Provide these prompts to help with their career-based goal setting:
 - What work-related opportunity at high school would help you gain experience in this career path?
 - What do you hope to gain by participating in this work-related opportunity?

Materials Required

- Xello **Course Planner** feature or your High School course guide
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will update one career-based goal in their Xello **My Plans** to include a work-related opportunity that would help them gain experience in the career pathway while still in school.



Culminating Project Tip

Add your students' questions about getting experience to the discussion guide. For example: Can you recommend any job shadowing or co-op experiences for high school students in this field?