Career Backup Plans

13 Recommended
Year 13

Length
90 Minutes

About This Lesson

To identify back-up options, students will investigate careers similar to those they have expressed interest in. They learn why it's important to plan alternative routes, and research how a post-16 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 alternative routes.

40 minutes

Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Career Backup Plans

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson: **Career Backup Plans** to help them understand the importance of exploring alternative routes and prepare 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 programmes for a saved career and explore careers related to that programme 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
- Alternative routes

Benchmarks & Curriculum

Gatsby Benchmark 2: learning from career and labour market information

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Activity 1 - Similar Careers

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30 Minutes

Inquiry Prompts

- Are there alternative 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 similar careers that may match their interests, skills, or aspirations; and reflect on why these may be good alternative routes.

1 Provide the instructions on the next page to your students.

Materials Required

- Student Instructions
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Outcomes

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

Similar Careers

Student Instructions

Whether you have sights on one career path for yourself or are still trying to decide your dream career, recognising 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 alternative 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:
    - Is the education or training required easier to achieve?
    - Is the career outlook in higher demand?
    - 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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Length
20 Minutes

Inquiry Prompts

- How will post-16 education or training influence my career opportunities?
- How likely is it that post-16 education or training will lead me to my dream career?

Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will research education or training programmes 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

Outcomes

Students will save one post-16 education programme linked to a career of interest and add a weblink to the course in the course **Storyboard** with details about associated employment opportunities.

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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 enrol in a post-16 course 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 Courses** and save one that interests you.

3 Look at the **Related Careers** list on the course 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 course and college or university webpage. Many courses will describe or list future employment opportunities or potential career paths. Are there any new careers listed here that interest you?

5 Back in Xello, return to the course profile page. Add the weblink to the course'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.