Exploring Career Clusters – Educator’s Guide
Virginia Career VIEW

VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources careers.

Jobs Focus:
Veterinarian
Farmer
Landseaper
Miner
Park Ranger
Zoo Keeper
Animal Trainer
Logger

Supplemental Activities:
- Have students create a bumper sticker with their favorite animal.
- Create hands-on animal centers using these ideas:
  - Veterinarian – use a doctor’s kit & stuffed animals.
  - Park Ranger – put bird/animal feeders outside and observe behavior and eating habits.
  - Farmer – plant an herb or vegetable and watch it grow.
  - Miner – mine for “gems” in a box filled with sand.
- Older students can research and write a report on one or more of the following occupations noted above.
- Plan a flower garden.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Invite someone who works with animals to speak to class.
- Visit an animal shelter or veterinary hospital.
- Take a trip to the local farmer’s market.

Books to Read:
Lily’s Pesky Plant by Kirsten Larsen & Judith Clarke
Ranger Trails: Jobs of Adventure by Jeff Yanuchi
Animal Hospital by Judith Walker-Hodge
Harvey the Gardener by Lars Klinting
Animal Babies on the Farm by editors of Kingfisher
A Day in the Life of a Zookeeper by Nate Leboutillier
50 Awesome Ways Kids Can Help Animals by Ingrid Newkirk
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VA Career VIEW Activities:

Books to Read:
Building by Elisha Cooper
The World of Castles and Forts by Malcolm Day
The Tunnel Builders by James E. Kelly
How to Wreck a Building by Elinor Lander Horwitz
How a House is Built by Gail Gibbons
A Street Through Time by Anne Millard
A Kid’s Guide to Building Forts by Tom Birdseye

Jobs Focus:
Welder
Architect
Carpenter
Plumber
Electrician
Roofer
Brick Mason
Painter

Supplemental Activities:
- Create a hands-on learning center within the classroom with play tools, building blocks, styrofoam with plastic pegs for hammering, etc.
- Bring in a variety of tools and have students list what occupations would use each tool.
- Older students can research and write a report on one or more of the following occupations: welder, carpenter, plumber, electrician, architect, painter.
- Draw a map of the classroom or home.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Invite someone who uses tools to engage the students.
- Invite a SNAP ON salesperson to bring his/her truck full of tools.
- Take a trip to the local home improvement store.
- Visit a local construction site or high school shop department.
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications Careers.

Books to Read:
I Spy Shapes in Art by Lucy Micklethwait
The Berenstain Bears Draw-It! by Stan Berenstain
If You Were A Writer by Joan Lowery Nixon
Aunt Isabel Tells a Good One by Kate Duke
Mr. Majeika and Music Teacher by Humphrey Carpenter
What Do Illustrators Do? by Eileen Christelow
The Daring Nellie Bly: America’s Star Reporter by Bonnie Christensen

Jobs Focus:
Author
Editor
Sound Engineer
Actor
Illustrator
Artist
Reporter
Museum Curator

Supplemental Activities:
❖ Have students research a job and create a poster.
❖ Create hands-on centers using these ideas:
  Choir Director – instruments, sheet music, baton
  Illustrator – paints, pencils, paper, drawing books
  Actor – costumes and scenes from plays or movies
  Sound Engineer – record and playback songs
❖ Using disposable cameras, have students take pictures, print them out, and create a “museum” gallery.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas:
❖ Invite a local writer to speak to the class.
❖ Collect old children’s books to donate to a local program.
❖ Visit a local newspaper, tv station, or radio station.
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Business, Management and Administration Careers.

Jobs Focus:
- Business Owner
- Human Resources Director
- Secretary
- Operations Manager
- Customer Service Rep

Supplemental Activities:
- Have students research a business and create business cards.
- Have students create a classified ad to hire someone.
- Have students run a canned food drive for the local food bank. Students should be responsible for: advertising, posters, staffing, and accounting.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Invite local entrepreneurs to speak to the kids.
- Visit the local Chamber of Commerce and tour.
- Visit a local business and take a tour.
- Ask a speaker from Junior Achievement to visit.

Books to Read:
- Tyler & His Solve-a-Matic Machine by Jennifer Bouani
- Arthur’s Pet Business by Marc Brown
- Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand by Scott Liz
- Babysitter’s Business Kit by Harriet Brown
- World of Money Presents Funny Business: A Bazillion Cool Business Ideas for Kids by Michael J. Searls
- Karen’s Lemonade Stand by Ann M. Martin

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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Education & Training Careers.

Jobs Focus:
Teacher
Coach
Librarian
Scout Leader
College Professor

Supplemental Activities:
- Have students teach a lesson to the class.
- Allow students to help grade each other’s papers.
- Have students interview a coach or scout leader.
- Give students the responsibility of creating a theme bulletin board.
- Have older students conduct reading time with the younger students.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Visit a local college campus.
- Collect old children’s books and organize them into a lending library for the class.
- Invite an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher to speak to the class; or invite a Literacy Volunteer to share about his/her work.

Books to Read:
The Teacher from the Black Lagoon by Thaler and Lee
T is for Teachers: A School Alphabet by Layne and Layne
No More Pencils, No More Books, No More Teacher’s Dirty Looks (Gilbert and Friends) by Diane deGroat
I Want to Be a Teacher by Dan Liebman
Check it Out! The Book About Libraries by Gail Gibbons
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Finance Careers.

Books to Read:
Counting Money by Tanya Thayerr
The Berenstain Bears Trouble with Money by Stan & Jan Berenstain
Pigs Will Be Pigs: Fun with Math and Moey by Amy Axelrod and Sharon McGinley-Nally
Willimena Rules! How to Lose Your Cookie Money by Wesley & Roos

Jobs Focus:
Accountant
Stock Broker
Bookkeeper
Insurance Agent
Bank Clerk
IRS Agent

Supplemental Activities:
❖ Have students take turns counting money for ice cream or lunch.
❖ Create pretend check books.
❖ Set up a pretend bank for rewards for good behavior.
❖ Set up a pretend budget.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
❖ Invite someone who works with money to speak to the class.
❖ Visit a local bank for a tour.
❖ Visit a local newspaper, tv station, or radio station.
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**VA Career VIEW Activities:**
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Government & Public Administration Careers.

**Books to Read:**
- Working at the Post Office by Katie Marisco
- Who Works at the White House? by Marge Kennedy
- If I Ran for President by Catherine Stier and Lyn Avril
- Rhyme: A Pig in Politics by Will Marks
- Gum Race by Gabrielle Charbonnet
- What’s a Mayor? by Nancy Harris
- Amelia Bedelia 4 Mayor by Herman Parish

**Jobs Focus:**
- Postal Worker
- Mayor
- Ambassador
- City Planner
- Town Clerk
- Public Works Employee

**Supplemental Activities:**
- Create a pretend Post Office.
- Run a mock campaign for different choices of ice cream, pencils for the school store, etc.
- Pick a street in your town and create a new design/plan for it.
- Have students choose a country to be an “Ambassador” to. Have them do some research on culture and economy and attempt to solve a problem with another country’s Ambassador.

**Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas**
- Invite a local elected official to speak to the class.
- Have someone from your board of elections come and explain the voting process.
- Visit the town hall.
- Take a field trip to the post office.
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Health Science Careers.

Jobs Focus:
- Nurse
- Pharmacist
- Radiologist
- Dentist
- Fitness Trainer
- Nutritionist

Supplemental Activities:
- Discuss different types of physicians.
- Have students measure each other’s height, weight, shoe size, record eye color, hair color, etc.
- Set up a microscope to view skin cells, hair, fiber, etc.
- Have students create a weekly menu for their family or a daily menu for younger students that are nutritionally balanced.
- Host a “Healthy Food Tasting Day”, bringing in different health foods the kids may not have tasted before: kiwi, papaya, pomegranate, asparagus, etc.

Books to Read:
- Cherry Ames Student Nurse by Helen Wells
- I Want to be a Nurse by Dan Liebman
- Day in the Life of a Doctor by Linda Hayward
- The Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist by Stan Berenstain
- Open Wide: Tooth School Inside by Laurie Keller
- The School Nurse from the Black Lagoon by Mike Thaler and Jared Lee

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Invite a nutritionist as a guest speaker.
- Invite an ambulance to visit.
- Visit a local hospital or clinic (or dental office) for a tour.
VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Hospitality and Tourism Careers.

Books to Read:
- Travel Agent by Michael Burgan
- Working in Travel & Tourism by Margaret McAlpine
- Storybook Travels: From Eloise’s New York to Harry Potters London, Visits to 30 of the Best-Loved Landmarks in Children’s Literature by Bates and La Tempa
- Career Ideas for Kids Who Like to Travel by Diane Reeves
- The Best Chef in Second Grade by Katharine Kenah
- Peter the Cruise Ship by Hans Mateboer

Jobs Focus:
- Travel Agent
- Hotel Manager
- Theme Park Attendant
- Tour Guide
- Chef
- Cruise Director

Supplemental Activities:
- Look at travel brochures; have the students plan a trip.
- Create a pretend restaurant, including menu, advertising, and simple budget.
- Have the students take turns coming up with activities for recess or craft time.
- Teach the students how to set a table in a “fancy” restaurant; hold a napkin-folding contest.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Invite a chef to visit the class.
- Visit a hotel for a tour.
- Visit the Culinary Arts program at your local college or vocational center – maybe the students can help prepare a simple meal or set the tables.
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Human Services Careers.

Jobs Focus:
- Counselor
- Early Childhood Worker
- Clergy
- Hairdresser
- Nursing Home Director

Supplemental Activities:
- Make cards to send to a nursing home.
- Have older students create activities for younger students.
- Have the students create a Beauty Salon.
- Discuss bullying and how to resolve conflict.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Visit a nursing home and spend time with residents.
- Invite a hairdresser to visit to talk about the tools they use.
- Visit a local childcare center for a tour; have the director talk about early childhood education and working with families.

Books to Read:
- Dr. Brad Has Gone Mad! by Dan Gutman
- The Babysitters Handbook: The Care and Keeping of Kids by Harriet Brown
- Fancy Nancy and the Sensational Babysitter by Jane O’Connor
- Vanessa the Werewolf Hairdresser (Crazy Jobs) by Jeanne Willis
- Bernie Magruder and the Drive-Thru Funeral Parlor by Phyllis Naylor
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Information Technology Careers.

Jobs Focus:
- Computer Programmer
- Database Technicians
- Game Developer
- Website Developer

Supplemental Activities:
- Take the kids to the computer lab; let them play with the resources on VA Career VIEW or other educational websites.
- Try to round up some older computers (maybe even a typewriter), giving the kids a chance to see what you used when you were younger.
- Have the kids design simple computer games.
- Let the kids take apart an old computer.
- Have the kids create a simple website for your class.

Books to Read:
- Bill Gates: Computer Programmer and Entrepreneur by Lucia Raatma
- Computer Programmer by Rosemary Wallner
- Computer Graphics & Animation by Asha Kalbag
- Arthur’s Computer Disaster by Marc Brown
- The Mystery in the Computer Game (Boxcar Children Mysteries) by Chandler Warner & Hodges Soileau
- Careers in Computer Gaming by Matthew Robinson
- Hot Jobs in Video Games by Scholastic Books

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Invite a video game developer to class.
- Visit a local technology company to take a tour of their computer room(s).
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Careers.

Jobs Focus:
- Police Officer
- Firefighter
- Judge
- Game Warden
- Crossing Guard
- Lawyer

Supplemental Activities:
- Learn about local fish and game laws.
- Play detectives to solve pretend mysteries like shoe prints, finger prints, etc.
- Create a pretend court room and conduct a mock trial.
- Have students take turns being “crossing guards” and escorting the class from one room to another.

Books to Read:
- I Want to Be a Police Officer by Dan Liebman
- Curious George and the Firefighters by H.A. Rey
- Firefighters A to Z by Chris Demarest
- Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer by John Grisham
- Careers in the Corrections System by Daniel Harmon
- Freddy the Detective by Walter Brooks
- Two-Minute Mysteries by Daniel Sobol
- Crime Files: Four-Minute Forensic Mysteries by Jeremy Brown

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas:
- Invite a local police officer (or forensic detective) to speak to the class.
- Invite a canine police team to visit the class.
- Invite a fire truck to visit the school.
- Visit the local courthouse for a tour.
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Manufacturing Careers.

Books to Read:
Eli Whitney: The Cotton Gin and American Manufacturing by Regan Huff
Transformed: How Everyday Things are Made by Bill Slavin
Make It! Ship It! by Janine Scott
What Happens at a Crayon Factory? by Lisa Guidon
Assembly Lines by Ian MacDonald
ForkLifts by Jeffrey Zuehlke

Jobs Focus:
Assemblers
Fork Lift Drivers
Inspectors
Welders
Furniture Finishers
Industrial Managers

Supplemental Activities:
❖ Create a pretend assembly line for assembling snacks, school supplies, etc.
❖ Have the students “manufacture” an object according to a plan; have other students compare the finished product to the plan as the “inspectors”.
❖ Build paper furniture.
❖ Create new packaging for a popular product.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
❖ Visit a local manufacturing facility for a tour.
❖ Invite speakers from some local manufacturing companies to visit the class and talk about their jobs.
❖ Invite a furniture maker to class and have the kids “finish” a piece of scrap wood along with him/her.
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Marketing, Sales, and Service Careers.

Jobs Focus:
- Cashier
- Advertising Executive
- Customer Service
- Stock Clerk
- Graphics Designer
- Grocery Store Manager

Supplemental Activities:
- Create a hands-on grocery store by providing empty food boxes, paper bags, pretend cash register, and paper money. Add an apron for the cashier, create shelves to organize the food, price the items, and teach students how to calculate tax.
- Bring in grocery store flyers as examples and have students create their own.
- Create a new advertisement or logo of an already existing product.
- Talk about the importance of providing good customer service; have them take turns answering questions at the classroom store.

Books to Read:
- Grandma’s General Store-The Ark by Dorothy Carter
- The Game Store Mystery (Boxcar Children Mysteries) by Gertrude Warner
- Curious George Visits a Toy Store by H.A. Rey
- The Cookie-Store Cat by Cynthia Rylant
- Usborne Book of Graphic Design by Peach Potter
- The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Commercials by Jan Berenstain
- Two-Minute Mysteries by Daniel Cobol

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Invite a grocery store manager, butcher, etc to class.
- Visit the local grocery store for a tour.
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VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Careers.

Books to Read:
100 Most Popular Scientists for Young Adults: Biographical Sketches and Professional Paths by Kendall Haven
Virus Hunter (Weird Careers in Science) by Rick Emmer
Astronauts by Colleen Sexton
The Magic School Bus Inside the Earth by Joanna Cole
Career Ideas for Kids Who Like Science by Diane Reeves
The Outer Space Mystery (Boxcar Children Mysteries) by Gertrude Warner

Jobs Focus:
Chemist
Engineer
Astronaut
Researcher
Geologist
Astronomer

Supplemental Activities:
❖ Set up simple hands-on science centers around the classroom: different rocks and minerals, different leaves, a microscope with slides, etc.
❖ Let the students design a bridge.
❖ Have the students create paper mache planets to hang around the classroom.

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
❖ Invite a college professor to class to talk about research and teaching.
❖ Visit the high school science lab and let the teachers answer questions/do simple experiments with the kids.
❖ Organize a night viewing of planets and stars on school property for parents and kids.
VA Career VIEW Activities:
Using “A Guide to Activities by Career Cluster,” choose printable and online activities that you can do with your students when exploring Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Careers.

Supplemental Activities:
- Set up a play airport terminal with a keyboard, plane schedule, tickets, passports, etc.
- Have older students research plane fares to popular destinations. Compare costs and the distances using math skills.
- Using a wagon or a box with rope, have students time how long it takes to move loads of blocks from one place to another based on the weight of the loads.

Books to Read:
- Curious George at the Airport by Margaret Rey
- A Day with Air Traffic Controllers by Joanne Winne
- I Want to Be a Pilot by Dan Liebman
- Terrific Trains by Tony Mitton
- Theodore Hugs the Coast by Kerry Milliron
- The Suitcase Kid by Jacqueline Wilson
- Big Book of Trucks by Caroline Bingham
- I’m a Truck Driver by Jonathan London

Jobs Focus:
- Truck Driver
- Train Engineer
- Pilot
- Tugboat Captain
- Flight Attendant
- Air Traffic Controller

Field Trip/Guest Speaker Ideas
- Visit an airport, train station, or shipyard for a tour.
- Invite someone who works in transportation to the school to speak.
- Ask a truck driver to bring truck to the school for a tour and talk.