

UNDERSTANDING THE CAREER CLUSTERS

RELATING THE CAREER CLUSTERS TO INTERESTS, SKILLS & ABILITIES: LESSON 4

Summary:

Students learn how interests and skills relate to Career Clusters and apply that information to sorting careers into the correct Career Cluster.

Lesson Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Explain how skills, interests and abilities relate to Career Clusters
- Articulate similarities between careers in a Career Cluster.

Time Needed: 45 minutes

Resources Needed:

- Access to your online site
- Copy of the **Relating Career Clusters to Interests, Skills & Abilities** worksheet
- Blank sheet of paper

Computer Use: Yes

Description:

In this lesson, students will learn the concept of skills, interests, and abilities. Next, they will identify their own skills, interests, and abilities. Students will then evaluate how careers within a Career Cluster share interests, skills, and abilities.

Preparation:

- Print the **Relating Career Clusters to Interests, Skills & Abilities** worksheet
- Write “Skills”, “Interests”, and “Abilities” on the board.

Warm up:

1. Briefly explain the definition of skills, interests, and abilities. Use the examples in each definition below or choose examples that are meaningful to your students. You can also share examples of your own skills, interests, and abilities.
 - **Skills** are things that you have learned how to do very well through practice. For example, you might have developed skills like drawing, playing soccer, singing, growing plants, caring for your pet, keeping your room organized, building complicated Lego creations or teaching. To discover your own skills, think about things that you’ve learned to do well at home, at school, in extracurricular activities or for fun.
 - **Interests** are things that you want to give your attention to, spend time doing, or be involved with. You naturally like these things. You might be interested in the outdoors, or nature. You may be interested in travel, history, or other cultures. You maybe be interested in cooking, playing video games, or learning how things work. To discover your own interests, think about what you spend time doing or thinking about when you get to choose for yourself how you will spend your time.
 - **Abilities** are similar to skills, but they’re not exactly the same. Abilities are your natural talents or things that come easily to you. For example, you may be a naturally good singer, even without any training (if you practice, you will become SKILLED at your ability). You may have a natural ability to repair things or build something. You might have abilities at sports, memorization, or leadership. To discover your own abilities, think about what comes easily to you at school, at home or in other activities.

2. Next, ask students to take out a blank sheet of paper and divide it into three sections. They should label the three sections with the words “Skills”, “Interests”, and “Abilities”.
3. Tell students that they will have five minutes to write down their own skills, interests, and abilities in each section.
4. When students are finished, tell them that Career Clusters include careers that share similar skills, interests, and abilities. If you like one career in a Cluster, you’ll probably enjoy other careers within that Career Cluster.

Activity:

1. Ask students to log into CFWV.com and navigate to the **Career Planning** tab and then click **Explore Careers**. Students can look at the Career Clusters to help with the worksheet.
2. Distribute the **Relating Career Clusters to Interests, Skills & Abilities** worksheet.
3. Ask students to complete the worksheet by reading about 3 careers from the listed Career Cluster. They will then describe what interests, skills and abilities these careers have in common. Note: Skills and abilities have been combined to make the task easier for students.
4. Tell students that they will then select 3 careers from a Career Cluster of their own choice and write about what interests, skills and abilities those careers have in common.

Wrap Up:

- Ask students to share which Career Clusters seem to be the closest match to their own skills, interests and abilities.
- Give the class an opportunity to ask questions.



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Learn about the three careers listed in each Career Cluster chart by reading about them on CFVW.com. Then, answer the questions in the chart.

Arts, Audio-Video Technology & Communications Career Cluster	
	Careers: Actor, Ballet Dancer, Magician
What interests do these careers share?	
What skills and abilities do these careers share?	

Health Science Career Cluster	
	Careers: Athletic Trainer, Dental Hygienist, Home Health Aide
What interests do these careers share?	
What skills and abilities do these careers share?	

Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Career Cluster	
	Careers: Criminal Investigator, Police Patrol Officer, Detective
What interests do these careers share?	
What skills and abilities do these careers share?	

Fill in the next chart on your own by choosing a Career Cluster and listing three careers from that Career Cluster. Then answer the questions.

Choose your Own Career Cluster	
	Career Cluster:
	Three Careers:
What interests do these careers share?	
What skills and abilities do these careers share?	