



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE: MY FAMILY'S CORN FARM

Activity 5: When I Grow Up...

Objectives:

- Students will explore different careers within agriculture.
- Students will use clues from the text to determine potential careers for their future.

NGSS or Common Core Standards addressed:

- K-6 3.0 Helping Pupils Understand Career Applications of Subject Matter (K-6th grade)
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3.B Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.

The Pillar of Ag Lit it relates to:

- The Relationship Between Agriculture and Food, Fiber and Energy

Materials:

- Activity 5: Worksheets #1 & #2
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Procedures

In this activity, students will receive different character profiles, each of whom has a different agricultural job (ex: scientist, engineer, florist, farmer, etc.). After reviewing the descriptions of each, students will create their career profiles.

1. Read *My Family's Corn Farm* as a class.
2. Ask students what career Presley wants to have when she grows up. (Farmer or scientist)
3. Students will be able to explore their career paths by learning about different jobs within the agriculture industry and then creating their own future careers.
4. Hand out the career profiles, Activity 5: Worksheet #1, and have students read the different profile descriptions to themselves or in groups. While reading, students should guess what career they think is being described.
5. After all of the groups have had a chance to guess, have students or groups share what they thought each career was, and then share with the whole class what each career is using the Worksheet #1 Key.
6. Ask students if there is a specific career from the profiles they would be interested in being. If not, ask students to share what other careers interest them.

Use this as a chance to talk with students about why it's important to have a career when they grow up and what are some steps they can take now.

- a. A few points to share with students
 - Work hard in school
 - Dream big about the future
 - Be active in extracurriculars and explore hobbies
7. To help explore more careers, play Career Charades. Cut out each career title on Activity 5: Worksheet #2 and allow student volunteers to come in front of the class and act out one of the careers. Students can also play in small groups or teams; be sure to print out enough copies of Activity 5: Worksheet #2.

(Continued)



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Tip: Here is some added information about how each career relates to the agriculture industry that you can share with students.

Teacher: An Agricultural Science Teacher is responsible for the education of agriculture, food science, and natural resources. Using these topics, agricultural science teachers can give students vital skills that are important in the ag industry. These skills include math, science, leadership, technology, communications, and management. They can also go the extra step in providing strong agricultural education by advising their school's FFA Chapter.

Mechanic: A mechanic is a person who repairs and maintains machinery. In the agriculture field, mechanics work on farm equipment like combines and tractors.

Scientist: One type of agricultural-related scientist is a regulatory scientist who is responsible for the management and strategy of a product through the regulatory process. This means they conduct studies and then communicate their findings to regulatory agencies in the U.S. and other countries to ensure the safety of crops, chemistry, and other products consumers use.

Farmer: A row crop producer or farmer plants and harvests traditional row crops independently or for a large farm or company. Crops include corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, potatoes, canola, sunflowers, flax, sugar beets, field pea, etc.

Florist: Florists are artists; they design and create arrangements of flowers for us to enjoy. Some arrangements are in vases, bouquets, sprays, or larger displays for a party or showcase.

Veterinarian: Food Animal Veterinarians are responsible for caring for animals raised for food production and human consumption. They provide medical care consisting of research, diagnoses, and prevention.

Truck Driver: A truck driver is the point of contact for receiving, transporting, and delivering products within the ag industry. They ensure the safe delivery of products such as livestock, equipment, and feed to their desired locations.

Gardener: A gardener, also known as a Landscape Technician, is in charge of growing and maintaining plants on properties. They also manage and redesign a variety of plants and the construction of hardscapes.

Welder: Welders are responsible for welding equipment and, most commonly, machines. They also weld together frameworks made out of steel for buildings.

Find all the career profiles listed above and more at:
<https://www.agcareers.com/career-profiles/>

Key to Activity 5 Worksheet #1: 1. Farmer; 2. Scientist; 3. Teacher; 4. Mechanic



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Activity 5: When I Grow Up... WORKSHEET #1



1. _____

Workplace: On a farm which includes both outside and inside in an office.

Tools: Tractor, power tools, computer, GPS, trucks, ATVs

Education: At least a high school diploma with work experience

Interests: Animals and/or crops, being a manager of people, animals, and/or crops, working outside with their hands, feeding the world

Skills: Responsibility, Decision Making, and Problem Solving

Day in the Life: Early mornings, including farm chores and checking in on livestock or crops. Each day holds something new with a new problem to solve!



2. _____

Workplace: In laboratories, in offices, and in the field

Tools: Beakers, test tubes, microscope, computer

Education: Bachelor's Degree

Interests: Knowing how plants and animals work at a biological level, improving agriculture practices, feeding the world

Skills: Research, Written and Verbal Communication, Keen Eye for Observations

Day in the Life: Always changing, one day in the lab testing specimens and the other out in the field doing experiments to improve plant or animal growing conditions.



3. _____

Workplace: In a classroom

Tools: Computer, books, whiteboard

Education: Bachelor's/Master's Degree

Interests: Helping people learn, learning new things, having hands-on experiences

Skills: Responsibility, Communication, Knowledge in Different Topics, Problem Solving

Day in the Life: Early mornings preparing the classroom for learning. Most of the day is filled with new problems to solve and students to help grow and learn.



4. _____

Workplace: Warehouses and manufacturing facilities

Tools: Power and hand tools, safety equipment, machines

Education: At least a high school diploma with work experience

Interests: How machines work, fixing, repairing or building machines, working with their hands, helping others

Skills: Safety Procedures, Problem Solving, Communication

Day in the Life: Getting hands dirty working on and fixing machines. Helping people with problems they can't solve by themselves.



Activity 5: When I Grow Up...

WORKSHEET #2

Teacher

Mechanic

Scientist

Farmer

Florist

Veterinarian

Truck Driver

Gardener

Welder