

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Exploring life after high school in the skilled trades

Finishing high school is a big deal – and so is taking time to think about a career or occupation you’d like to pursue.

It can help to explore careers that are related to subject areas you like in school and then research what those careers involve, what opportunities may be available in your area, and what education or training you might need to set you up for success after you graduate. To practice this research, explore careers in the skilled trades that may relate to career and technical education classes, job internships, or apprenticeships you may have had during high school. These careers may include airplane mechanic, construction manager, crane operator, electrician, or plumber.

Instructions

1. Visit [careeronestop.org’s “Occupation Profile” page at https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Careers/Occupations/occupation-profile.aspx](https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Careers/Occupations/occupation-profile.aspx).
2. To choose an occupation to explore related to the skilled trades, you can either click “List of Occupations” and select one of the occupations listed, or type a job or focus area in the search field, like “carpenter,” “electrician,” “plumber,” or “roofer.”
3. Click on that occupation and enter your location to get an occupation profile.
 - Consider using your school’s location.
4. Review the occupation profile and answer the questions below.

Exploring a career

What career did you choose? _____

Briefly describe this career below. Include some basic details about some activities you might do as part of this career.

What types of knowledge, skills, and abilities do you need to be successful in this career? List at least five.

How much education do most people in this career usually have?

What education and job experience might you need to get started in this career?

What is the typical pay for this position? _____

Describe whether or not you think the typical pay in this career will justify the education and training expenses required to become qualified.

Does it seem like you'd have good opportunities to get jobs in this career field in your area? Are there likely to be more or fewer job opportunities in the future for this occupation?

Digging deeper: Exploring colleges and training institutions

You can also use the occupation profile to learn about specific schools in your area that offer education or training programs related to the occupation you chose.

- In the “Education and experience: to get started” box on the occupation profile, click on an education or training program you might be interested in related to a skilled trade. Then select one of the programs that interests you.
 - Be sure to click the “More programs” link to see the full list of options.
- Click a link to go to the school’s or program’s website to find out more about the program.

Name the program you selected: _____

Identify what you liked and didn’t like about this program.

Apprenticeships can help you prepare for some occupations.

- Click the link in the “Apprenticeships: learn on the job” box on the occupation profile to see if any are available in your area.
- If any are listed, review one or two of them and write a sentence or two on how an apprenticeship may be able to prepare you for the occupation you chose.