

BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET

Increasing your earning potential

Have you ever been asked what you want to be when you grow up? Exploring careers may help you figure out some answers to that question. Researching a few careers and learning what education or skills you’d need and how much the careers may pay can help you get started.

Instructions

- 1 Visit the online Occupational Outlook Handbook, a resource from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>.
- 2 Find the column on the left titled “Occupational Groups” and choose a category that you’re interested in.
- 3 Within that category, select a career. Record the career, the education or skills required, and the median pay on the form below.
 - *Median pay means that half the people who have this career make more than this amount and half make less.*
- 4 Repeat this process (be sure to research at least three careers in the same category).
- 5 Answer the reflection questions.

Occupational group

Careers	Education level	Median pay
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		



Reflection questions

1. Did anything surprise you about the careers you chose to research? Was the education level or pay more or less than you thought it would be for any of these careers? Explain.
2. In your opinion, which of the careers you researched has the best mix of your interests, skills, planned education level, and desired pay? Explain your answer.
3. The median pay represents the middle amount of what people earn in a career. Why do you think some people make more than the median pay? Why do some people make less?