



Building Foundations: An Introduction to Construction Careers

Lesson Objectives:

- Teach students about career paths.
- Teach students about career opportunities in the construction industry.
- Enhance students' understanding of what the construction industry is.

Materials:

- Construction Craft Trading Card Deck
- Web connected device (cell phone, tablet, computer)
- Pens/pencils

Activities:

- Group discussion
- Individual research
- Group sharing/discussion
- Classroom presentation

Instructions:

Start by informing your students that they will be learning about career paths and the construction industry today.

1. **Group Discussion:** as a class, work through the discussion questions below to get students thinking about careers and career paths.
 - a. What is a career path?
 - b. Why is it important to know the path to your desired career?
 - c. What are some of the paths you can use?
 - d. Does a path have to include a college degree?
 - e. What are some examples of career paths that do not require a college degree?
 - f. Ask the students to name all the construction crafts it took to build their school and list their answers on a whiteboard.
2. **Individual Research:** distribute one construction craft trading card and the handout to each student. Ask them to research their craft using their trading card and on the WeBuildIdaho.org website (QR Code located on the back of the trading card) under “Get Started” (www.webuildidaho.org/get-started) and answer the questions on the handout. They may need to select the blue button at the bottom of the webpage if their craft is not listed. These links will take them to the Next Steps Idaho page.
3. **Group Sharing/discussion:** Break the students into small groups and discuss what they found out about their crafts. What major similarities and differences do they see in their crafts?
4. **Classroom Presentation:** Have one student volunteer from each group present a summary to the whole class:
 - a. What crafts did your group have?
 - b. What different career paths did you see?
 - c. What were the major similarities/differences?

Craft Trading Card Questions:

Your Craft: _____

Brief description of what the craft does:

What characteristics of the craft do you think you would enjoy?

Is a college degree required? Yes / No

What formal training, if any, is required?

What subjects should you focus on in school to prepare for a career in this craft?

What is the demand for this craft? Low / Medium / High

Create a path to a career in this craft: