



Title: Career Family Tree

Grade: 8

Career Development Model:

Self-Awareness • Career Exploration

Nebraska Career Readiness Standards:

- Contributes to employer & community success
- Demonstrates innovation & creativity
- Manages personal career development
- Attends to personal & financial wellbeing

Objective:

- Students will evaluate how their family and/or extended family may or may not be an influence on their own career choices and decisions.
- Students will conduct interviews to gather information regarding specific careers within the family and/or extended family structure.

Materials and Supplies Needed:

- Career Family Tree handout
- Career Family Tree Questions handout

Class Instructions:

1. Teachers introduce the lesson by talking about how part of the process of figuring out who you might want to become in the future can be informed by communicating with your family about what they have to say about their reasons for choosing or not choosing a certain career or job in their own work lives.
2. Explain to students that this will be a graded homework assignment in which students discuss with their family the current jobs they have and the reason behind seeking their careers. Distribute the “Career Family Tree” handout and the “Career Family Tree Questions” handout.
3. When students return their handout and written responses to the questions, teachers will place students in small groups to discuss how different careers and jobs that exist in their families have affected or not affected their own career decision-making process.

4. Once students have discussed the topic, they will come together as a class to see what other groups found to be common rationales.
5. It is critical that teachers help students explore and contextualize their meaning of success in a career. In other words, what do students perceive to be their family's expectations of what are acceptable or unacceptable careers, if any? Ask students if they will consider their family's opinion about career choice: why or why not.

Tips on keeping it real:

- Sharing information about oneself, or self-disclosure, is a tool borrowed from career counseling. It is a very useful tool to help students realize that confusion regarding how to make decisions with one's life is not unusual.
- Share some of the careers that your family members had/have? (Nurse, musician, plumber, teacher...)
- Share how other family members' jobs influenced your own thoughts about what you wanted to do (e.g. are you family members inclined toward some domain of careers based on their skills/attributes)? (My mother was a teacher when I was growing up so I was exposed to the profession early on; she encouraged me by saying I would be a great teacher.)
- Were there any impressive pieces of advice about possible jobs you might consider from family members? (My mother encouraged me to pursue a career like hers (nurse) because she felt it offered job security and good benefits.)
- Were there expectations (spoken or unspoken) from your family about what kind of jobs you should or should not consider? (My mother encouraged and expected me to follow her footsteps in teaching and I got the sense that it would make her very proud- even from a very young age.)

Credits/Sources:

Making my
FUTURE
WORK

"Making my Future Work: A College and Career Readiness Program", U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences.

<https://www.csuohio.edu/cehs/mmfw/making-my-future-work-0>

CAREER FAMILY TREE: QUESTIONS

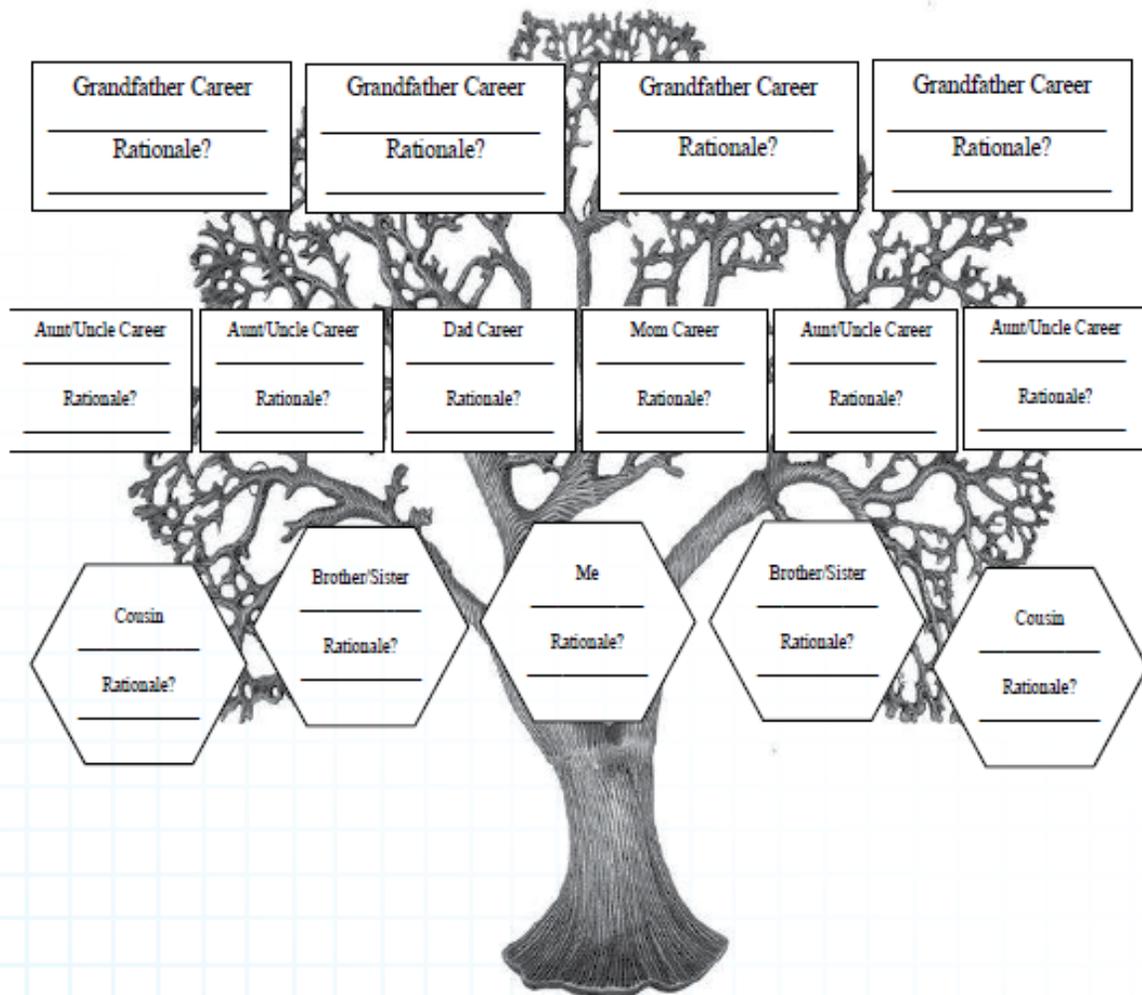
Question 1: Are there career areas that several of your relatives have pursued or currently hold? If so, why do you think this is a trend among your family?

Question 2: How have your relatives' career choices influenced your career decisions, if at all? That is, how have the jobs of your family made an impression on what kinds of jobs you wish to have in the future, after high school?

Question 3: What do your relatives tell you about the reasons to choose or not to choose certain careers like theirs?

CAREER FAMILY TREE: HANDOUT

Instructions: Take a look at the careers chosen by your grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives. It's fun to think about how family members' career choices have influenced their lives and it may help you identify things you want or don't want in a future career. Fill in each box with the career/occupation of the listed person. Add more boxes if you'd like.



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