Unit 2 — Overview: A World of Options!

Overview

A World of Options! engages students in exploring a world of career options. In this unit, students build a schema for understanding and classifying career options using the Nebraska Career Education Model. Within this model, students explore how education, interests and experience relate to career options. Students also explore key issues, trends and innovations that influence, or change, the career landscape as a whole. By the end of this unit, students will use Career Clusters to explore one or two broad sectors of career interest.

Outcomes

The students synthesize a multi-media report outlining information about the nature of careers within one broad Career Cluster. Reports created should demonstrate active synthesis, application and use of the Key Concepts related to the following Essential Questions.

- Essential Question 1: What are my options in the world of careers?
    - Key Concept 1: A career is a set of roles I choose to play during my life that engages me in using personal talents and strengths to provide some service or goods that contribute to society.
    - Key Concept 2: Career exploration is not the same as job searching. Job searching is a short-term pursuit of a position that matches my financial and career goals. Career exploration is a long, progressive process of choosing education, training and jobs that fit my interests, strengths and talents.
    - Key Concept 3: Effective career planning at my age involves identifying my strengths and talents and conducting exploration of a variety of Career Clusters in a career field before choosing one to guide my future plans in high school.
    - Key Concept 4: The world of careers can be divided into six general sectors called career fields. The career fields can be broken down into 16 Career Clusters - focusing on similar subjects or similar skills.
    - Key Concept 5: Each of the 16 Career Clusters can be further divided into different pathways - further defining specific types of career opportunities within each cluster.
    - Key Concept 6: A Career Pathway is a group of careers, each with opportunities for advancement and/or additional skill development, which accomplish some specific purpose within the Career Cluster. Careers in a Career Pathway share several things in common. For example, they may share a common skill requirement and a common purpose.
    - Key Concept 7: My options within these 16 clusters are not dictated by my gender, ethnicity, religion, parents' jobs, the town I live in or my family's history. Also, choosing to explore careers in one cluster does not exclude me from exploring careers in another cluster, if I change my mind.
    - Key Concept 8: There are several ways to sort among the different careers within each of the 16 Career Clusters (i.e., educational requirements, interests, type of work environment, focus of the work, kinds of tools used, etc.).
- Essential Question 2: How are trends, issues and innovations changing the world of careers?
    - Key Concept 1: There are trends and issues that are widening my opportunities for work.

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- Key Concept 2: Innovations in technology and information are changing the way work is conducted.
- Key Concept 3: There are trends that are influencing how we work with each other.
- Key Concept 4: The jobs available today will look different in 10 years because of current trends and innovations.
- Key Concept 5: Regardless of how careers may change, there exists a set of skills and abilities required for success in any career - career readiness skills. It is important that I begin building those skills as a foundation for my future career.

Session		Key Events
1	**Unit Introduction:** ***A World of Options!***	• Experience the different sectors in the world of careers. • Introduce the two Essential Questions for Unit 2. • Preview the Unit 2 Milestone Project.
2	**Guided Instruction:** ***Topic 2-1 – My Career Options: Six Career Fields***	• Guided inquiry into Essential Question 1: What are my options in the world of careers? • Introduce the Learning Expedition Guide 2-1. • Self-directed inquiry into Essential Question 1: What are my options in the world of careers?
3	**Self-Directed Learning:** ***Topic 2-1 – My Career Options: 16 Career Clusters***	• Complete the Learning Expedition Guide 2-1. • Make progress toward the Unit 2 Milestone Project.
4	**Guided Instruction:** ***Topic 2-2 – Career Path Development***	• Guided inquiry into Essential Question 1: What are my options in the world of careers?
5	**Guided Instruction:** ***Topic 2-2 – Career Path Development***	• Guided inquiry into Essential Question 1: What are my options in the world of careers? • Introduce the Learning Expedition Guide 2-2.
6 & 7	**Self-Directed Learning:** ***Topic 2-2 – Career Path Development***	• Self-directed inquiry into Essential Question 1: What are my options in the world of careers? • Complete the Learning Expedition Guide 2-2. • Make progress toward the Unit 2 Milestone Project.
8	**Guided Instruction:** ***Topic 2-3 – Sorting Out My Career Options***	• Guided inquiry into Essential Question 1: What are my options in the world of careers? • Introduce the Learning Expedition Guide 2-3.
9	**Self-Directed Learning:** ***Topic 2-3 – Sorting Out My Career Options***	• Self-directed inquiry into Essential Question 1: What are my options in the world of careers? • Complete the Learning Expedition Guide 2-3. • Make progress toward the Unit 2 Milestone Project.

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10	**Guided Instruction:** ***Topic 2-4 – Trends, Issues and Innovations***	• Guided inquiry into Essential Question 2: How are trends, issues and innovations changing the world of careers? • Introduce the Learning Expedition Guide 2-4.
11	**Self-Directed Learning:** ***Topic 2-4 – Trends, Issues and Innovations***	• Self-directed inquiry into Essential Question 2: How are trends, issues and innovations changing the world of careers? • Complete the Learning Expedition Guide 2-4. • Make progress toward the Unit 2 Milestone Project.
12	**Guided Instruction:** ***Topic 2-5 – The Workplace Now and In The Future***	• Guided inquiry into Essential Question 2: How are trends, issues and innovations changing the world of careers? • Introduce the Learning Expedition Guide 2-5.
13 & 14	**Self-Directed Learning:** ***Topic 2-5 – The Workplace Now and In The Future***	• Self-directed inquiry into Essential Question 2: How are trends, issues and innovations changing the world of careers? • Complete the Learning Expedition Guide 2-5. • Make progress toward the Unit 2 Milestone Project.
15 & 16	**Milestone Project:** ***Construction & Feedback***	• Refine and complete the Unit 2 Milestone Project. • Self-evaluate the Unit 2 Milestone Project using the Milestone Project Rubric: Unit 2. • Meet with the teacher to receive feedback on the Unit 2 Milestone Project.
17 & 18	**Milestone Project:** ***Showcase & Final Assessment***	• Showcase completed Unit 2 Milestone Project. • Complete the final evaluation of the Unit 2 Milestone Project.
19	***Optional:*** **End-of-Unit 2 Exam**	• Complete the End-of-Unit 2 Exam and course evaluation.

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