

Learn to Earn- Career Exploration Lesson

Grade Range: 4th-8th grade **Time:** 30 minutes

Synopsis: The level of education obtained has a huge influence on the job opportunities available. In this lesson, students will explore how successfully achieving their education can yield them a larger income in the future.

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencils

Instructions:

1. Begin by telling students that money earned in jobs is often influenced by the amount of education/skills you have (examples below). Entry-level wages are approximately:
 - Non-high school graduate - FAST FOOD WORKER = \$6.15/hr.
 - High school graduate DENTAL ASSISTANT = \$11.00/hr.
 - Two-year college graduate GRAPHIC DESIGNER = \$15.35/hr.
 - Four-year college graduate - DIETICIAN = \$19/hr.
 - Master's degree SPEECH PATHOLOGIST= \$23.90/hr.
2. Have students pick a career from the above (or similar) list.
3. Let's play a game: Choosing a career on the list above, ask students to figure out what is the estimate daily salary for an 8-hour day. Then have students estimate the weekly salary for a 40-hour week, then a month.
4. Have students discuss salaries and other advantages or disadvantages to education and skill training. **Feel free to use phone to look up other wages during the discussion [here](#)**
5. The goal is to motivate students to stay in school and take advantage of every learning opportunity.
6. If there is time, have students assist you in creating a bar chart that compares the number of occupations in 3-4 wage ranges or degree required