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fascinating facts

Explore & research

It is never too early to begin exploring careers. The sooner you identify possible career options, the more you can prepare for them while you are still in school.

1

Career clusters

Examining career clusters is a good starting point to begin the career exploration process. These clusters group careers that share common features and require similar skills.

2

Career pathways

Within each career cluster, you will find a variety of career pathways. Pathways show more specific career areas that have similar knowledge and skill requirements.

3

Work-based learning

Work-based learning experiences provide opportunities for you to discover more about careers directly from employers and businesses. Work-based learning can include participating in career fairs, touring workplaces, conducting informal interviews, job shadowing, and internships.

4

Career fairs

Schools often organize career fairs for students to participate in. These events typically include between 20 and 30 businesses. Students can talk with professionals from a variety of businesses, share resumes, and learn about internship and employment opportunities.

5

Workplace tours

Touring a workplace provides you the opportunity to see a business in action. You will also have the opportunity to observe and speak with people working in that career field.

6

Informational interviewing

An informational interview is a great opportunity to learn more about a specific career. Arrange to talk with someone working in a career field you are interested in. Ask about their daily work routine, their favorite parts of their job, the tasks they enjoy the least, and what they would recommend you do to prepare for that industry.

7

Job shadowing

Job shadowing is spending all or part of a work day with an employee. Job shadowing lets you dig deeper into the daily work environment and gain a realistic picture of daily work tasks.

8

Internships

Internships are short-term, paid or unpaid job experiences. During an internship you are working in a business to explore career options, developing and practicing work skills, and preparing for what to expect in that particular work environment.