

Popular Places to Work

This lesson is designed to help students identify areas in the United States with the highest concentration of jobs based upon career category and specific occupation.

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

1. Learn about factors that influence the labor market
2. Explore areas of the United States with specific career concentrations
3. Explore how demands for careers may shape their post-secondary plans

ACTIVITIES

PART 1

Content Knowledge

Using the provided prompts at the end of this lesson, lead a class discussion on the following:

1. What is the labor market?
2. Why is labor market information important?
3. What factors impact the labor market?

PART 2

Applying Information

Have students log in to MEFA Pathway and navigate to their *My Career List* under the *Discover Careers* tab. Students should view their careers list and identify 2-3 career categories. Have students go to the *Popular Places* page by clicking on *Investigate Your Future* under the *Discover Careers* tab. Students should choose a career category and occupation that matches one from their career list. Students should start to assess the areas in the U.S that have the highest concentration of jobs and skills based upon their selection.

Grade Level: 11

MEFA PATHWAY SECTIONS WITHIN THIS LESSON:

- My Career List
- Popular Places

DOMAIN:

- College & Career Exploration

TIME:

- 30 Minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

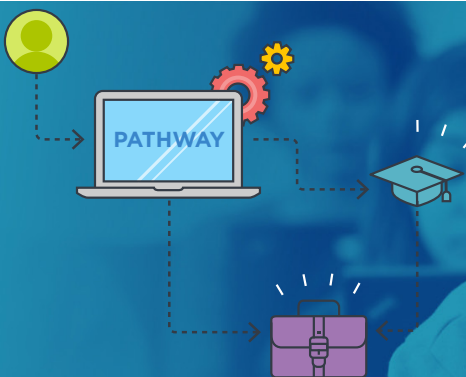
- Internet connection to work with the MEFA Pathway website
- Labor Market Discussion Prompts (included)

VOCAB:

- Labor Market
- Supply
- Demand

FUTURE READY SKILLS:

- Communication
- Evaluating
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking



PART 3

Evaluating Information

While keeping the areas of the country that support their potential career path in mind, students should apply this information to their postsecondary plan. Have students click on a career from their list which will open the details page where they can view the projected growth percentage and wage information. Students should repeat this for 3-5 careers.

PART 4

Critical Thinking/Creative Application

Students should create a presentation on software such as PowerPoint that highlights their top career choice (at this time) and create a prospective 10-year strategy plan. They should include the below factors and it should be in their own words. The presentation should include appropriate graphics that add to the content on the slides. In addition to an opening slide (title, their name, class, teacher name, date), students should also have a concluding slide in which they reflect upon the one career of the researched careers they are most interested in and why. Upon completion, encourage students to navigate to their *Dashboard* and upload the final product to the *Document Library* in MEFA Pathway .

- Education plan including required level (high school diploma, certification, 2-year degree, 4-year degree)
- Programs of study/college major needed
- Wage based on experience
- Preparation required (experience, job training)
- Knowledge required
- Skills required
- State of residence while pursuing education plan
- State of residence following education plan

Email any questions to:
info@mefapathway.org

Labor Market Discussion Prompts

What is the labor market?

The labor market, also known as the job market, refers to the supply and demand for employment; employees provide the supply, and employers provide the demand. The relationship between the supply and demand of labor can depend on variables such as job openings, labor competition, salaries, geography, and workplace conditions.

Why is understanding labor market information important?

For students: Being knowledgeable and aware of certain data about careers, including trends, growth potential, and geographic concentration, can help students decide which occupation to pursue.

For employers: Understanding how the labor market works can help employers assess how many employees to hire and how to leverage their skills to win long-term success.

What factors impact the labor market?

Supply and demand: How many people are trained for an occupation? How many jobs are there?

Language abilities: Do you need to be bilingual for this kind of work?

Seasonal fluctuations: Is this work more in demand at certain times of year (e.g. landscaping)?

Population: Is the demand for this work increasing or decreasing based on population patterns?

Economy: How do economic factors influence job prospects?

Technological advances: Has the field been impacted by recent changes in technology (e.g. online shopping)?

Skills and abilities: What skills and abilities are essential to this kind of work?

Popular Places to Work Grading Rubric

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CATEGORY	EXCELLENT 4	GOOD 3	SATISFACTORY 2	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT 1
Content Accuracy	All content on the presentation is accurate. There are no factual errors.	Most of the content is accurate but there is one piece of information that seems inaccurate.	The content is generally accurate, but one piece of information is clearly inaccurate.	The content is confusing or contains more than one factual error.
Sequencing of Information	The information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Most information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Some information is logically sequenced.	There is no clear plan for the organization of information.
Effectiveness	The presentation includes all material needed to give a good understanding of the topic.	The presentation is lacking one or two key elements.	The presentation is missing more than two key elements.	The presentation is lacking several key elements and has inaccuracies.
Use of Graphics	All graphics are attractive (size and colors) and support the topic of the presentation.	A few graphics are not attractive but all support the topic of the presentation.	All graphics are attractive but a few do not support the topic of the presentation.	Several graphics are unattractive AND detract from the content of the presentation.
Font Choice & Formatting	Font formats (size, bold, italic) have been carefully planned to enhance readability and content.	Font formats have been carefully planned to enhance readability.	Font formats have been carefully planned to complement the content. It may be a little hard to read.	Font formatting makes it very difficult to read the material.
Conventions. Student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	The presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	The presentation has 1- 2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors.	The presentation has 1- 2 grammatical errors but no misspellings.	The presentation has more than 2 grammatical and/or spelling errors.