

Finding Career Paths at the Santa Cruz County Fair



For Grades 3-5

The following activities are designed to give you ideas to use with your class before and after your visit to The Santa Cruz County Fair. The activities can be integrated into your curriculum, used as mini-lessons, or incorporated into a unit if it works with what you are teaching.

LANGUAGE ARTS

PRE-FAIR

1. Read HISTORY OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR to the class. Discuss the difference between the mid-way carnival and the fair. Ask the students why they think we have fairs. Write their responses on the board and emphasize that fairs reflect the community as a whole and what it produces. Ask students to list what they think was exhibited and sold at fairs in the past. Explain to them that they should compare the fair of today and notice any changes they feel have taken place through the years.

2. Brainstorm a career:

How many different occupations can the class think of that could be found at the Santa Cruz County Fair? Take 10-minutes to brainstorm. Discuss how careers can be divided into 7 Career Pathways, Agriculture; Arts, Communications and Human Services; Business; Home Economics; Engineering; Industrial and Technology; and Health Sciences. Have the class sort the occupations they brainstormed into the 7 Career Pathways.

3. Interview:

Have students divide into teams of 4-5 with a chaperone to tour the Santa Cruz County Fair. Have the team decide on one of the career paths. Using the suggestions on the "My Interview" form that follows and any other questions the teams develop, students will prepare an interview form. Have the students select a leader who will ask the questions, a student who will record the answers, and a student who will represent the group in answering any questions from the interviewee. At the fair students will ask for a 5-minute interview from a fair employee or volunteer. Have teams report orally back to the class following the fair.

MY INTERVIEW

MY NAME _____

I INTERVIEWED _____

OCCUPATION _____

DATE OF INTERVIEW _____

1. WHAT IS YOUR TITLE AT WORK? _____

2. HOW LONG HAVE YOU HELD THIS JOB? _____

3. WHAT TRAINING, EDUCATION, OR BACKGROUND DID YOU NEED FOR THIS JOB? _____

4. WHAT ARE THREE IMPORTANT DUTIES OF YOUR JOB?

5. DO YOU WEAR A UNIFORM ON YOUR JOB? _____

6. WHAT SPECIAL TOOLS OR EQUIPMENT DO YOU USE?

7. WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

8. WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT YOUR JOB? _____

9. TELL ABOUT ONE UNUSUAL OR FUNNY THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU ON YOUR JOB?

10. WHAT OTHER JOBS COULD YOU HOLD WITH YOUR TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE?

POST-FAIR

1. Have students compare the lists they made before going to the fair, and note any changes that they observed. Ask students to write a paragraph or two comparing and contrasting the fair of today and fairs in past years.

(Example: What stayed the same?; What is new and different?; Is the fair better?; Why?)

2. Brain-storming: Discuss what kinds of jobs the students saw people performing at the fair. Classify the jobs into the 7 Career paths and post them in the appropriate columns.

3. Research: Have students choose one of the following writing styles to report their findings: 1) Newspaper article, 2) Mini-report, 3) Story board, 4) Play, 5) Poetry, 6) Original comic book, 7) Biography.

4. Video tape: Ask the Career Counselor to talk to your class about the decisions students need to make when advancing to middle school, to high school, to community college, or a university. Have students make a videotape of the talk to present to other classes.

5. Divide students into teams of two. Have the team choose one career they might like to pursue. Give student A 2 minutes to discuss reasons for choosing the occupation. Then give student B 2 minutes to discuss reasons against choosing the occupation. At the end of the 4 minutes have students reverse the PRO and CON positions and repeat the position defenses.

6. Want Ad: Have student pretend that they are looking for a job at the Santa Cruz County Fair, and answer the following;

- 1) What kind of work are you looking for?
- 2) What are your qualifications?
- 3) What previous experience have you had?
- 4) What hours will you be able to work?
- 4) What do you expect to be paid?
- 5) What three people would you use as references?

Write an ad that could appear in the local newspaper.

Write a resume to give to a prospective employer.