

Investigating Careers

The **BIG** Idea

- What duties and skills do the careers I'm most interested in require, and which activities would I like or dislike?

AGENDA

Approx. 45 minutes

- I. Warm Up: Mystery Careers (5 minutes)
- II. Research & Compare Careers (35 minutes)
- III. Wrap Up: Discussion (5 minutes)

MATERIALS

- PORTFOLIO PAGES:**
 - Portfolio page 3, Comparing Careers: What They Do
- STUDENT HANDBOOK PAGES:**
 - Student Handbook page 85, RUPrepareND.com Directions, Career Profile: What They Do
- FACILITATOR PAGES:**
 - Facilitator Resource 1, DO NOW, Careers 3: Investigating Careers
 - Facilitator Resource 2, Mystery Careers
- Overhead projector
- Laptop
- LCD projector

OBJECTIVES

During this lesson, the student(s) will:

- Research the duties and skills required of their top career choices.
- Form an opinion about what they would like and dislike about their top career choices.
- Compare how their interests and skills match up to their career choices.

OVERVIEW

In this lesson, students learn about their top three career choices by investigating them more thoroughly. Students begin by reviewing “Career Profiles” in RUPrepareND.com, and identifying the various duties and skills required to succeed in each career. After investigating each career, students compare what they learned about the job to their own skills and interests, thus helping them to figure out if the career is a good fit or not. The lesson concludes with students sharing their findings with the class.

PREPARATION

- Make arrangements for the class to use the computer lab, and make sure RUPrepareND.com is accessible from students’ computers.
- List the day’s **BIG IDEA** and activities on the board.
- Write the web address RUPrepareND.com on the board.
- The following handouts need to be made into overhead transparencies or copied onto chart paper:
 - **Facilitator Resource 2, Mystery Careers**
 - **Portfolio page 3, Comparing Careers: What They Do**
- Check availability of audio and headsets.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Reading about a career can tell students what the profession is like. Reading the career profile will help students learn about different facets of the careers, such as duties, working conditions, outlook, and more.

This lesson requires students to use RUPrepareND.com. For instructions on accessing and using the site, see the **Grade 10, Careers One, Student Handbook pages 79–80, RUPrepareND.com Basic Directions**.

IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

DO NOW:

*(You may choose to present the Warm Up activity as a written Do Now. Present the questions on the board or overhead, and have students write only their answers on index cards. You could also choose to give the students a handout by copying **Facilitator Resource 1, DO NOW.**)*

Questions:

1. In our last class, you selected three careers to research. List them in the space below.
2. Pick one career and explain why you think it would be a good fit for your skills and interests.
3. Imagine you are a person with the career you chose in question 2, predict one thing about the job you might like and one part of your job you might dislike. Explain.

[Then call on students to read their answers and continue with the **Warm Up** as written.]

If your students are very experienced with RUPrepareND.com, you may choose to model job description research at the beginning of the lesson, and then allow students to work independently to complete all three sections.

If students finish their independent work early, pair students to share results from their research.

ACTIVITY STEPS

I. Warm Up: Mystery Careers (5 minutes)

1. [On the overhead projector, display **Facilitator Resource 2, Mystery Career #1**, but only show the part that lists the likes and dislikes for the career. Use paper to conceal the career title at the bottom and duties on the left.]
2. [Direct students' attention to the overhead, pointing out the two columns on the right, which list likes and dislikes for people in a particular career. Have a volunteer read the lists aloud.]
SAY SOMETHING LIKE: What career do you think this is? Why do you think so?
3. [After students guess, reveal the list of duties on the left. Again, have students guess what the "mystery career" is and why they think so. Uncover the mystery career to see if they're correct.]
4. [Ask the students if they were surprised by any of the duties or the likes and dislikes for this career. (Allow the students to respond.) Then ask what they learned from this career from the likes and dislikes. (Allow students to respond.)]
5. [If time permits, repeat the process with **Mystery Career #2**.]
6. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** You can learn a lot about a career by reading about it on RUReadyND.com in a "Career Profile." The **What They Do** tab lists many of the duties and responsibilities of the career.
7. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** After reading about what someone does in a career, you should be able to form an opinion about what parts of the job you would like and what parts of the job you would dislike.

[If students need additional explanation, read some of the duties from the Mystery Career Activity and ask students to raise their hands if it sounds like something they would enjoy and lower their hands if the duty is something that they would not enjoy.]

II. Research & Compare Careers (35 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** For the next few weeks, you are going to have a chance to compare your top three career choices. This week, we'll be focusing on the **What They Do** tab for each career. You are going to gather some basic facts, then look at how each career compares with your own personal preferences, interests, and skills.
2. [Project a copy of **Portfolio page 3, Comparing Careers, What They Do**, on the overhead projector as students refer to their own pages. Remind them that last lesson they examined the career outlook for five different careers they were interested in and then identified three careers they wanted to investigate further.]
3. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Last class you completed items 1 to 3 of this chart. Today you will focus on items 4 to 7. The first item requires you to research the career to learn more about it. You will use RUPrepareND.com to conduct your research. Items 5, 6, and 7 ask for your opinion about these jobs, and we'll get to that in just a minute.
4. [Read aloud, or have a volunteer read, the prompt in row 4. Then, use the LCD projector to display RUPrepareND.com. Remind students how to navigate to a particular career's "Career Profile." They should type in the name of the career in the **Search** box at the top of the page. As an example, type in "Librarian" and click **Go**. When the link appears, click it to access the **What They Do** tab. Point out that they can also search for careers alphabetically, by clicking on the **Career Planning** tab at the top of the page and then Explore Careers where they can find a career using a search box or alphabetical list.]

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: To find two things a professional in your career does in his or her job, you need to read the entire **What They Do** section of the Career Profile. **What They Do** is the page that you see when you first click on the article. You can navigate to other pages in the article using the tabs along the left side of the screen. As you read, jot down two or more job tasks or duties on the chart.

Some careers contain a video that shows someone at work in this career. You can also get info about daily tasks here. [Click on **Watch Video** to demonstrate.]

[If students require more modeling, you may provide an example of a task from "Librarian" and jot it on the overhead. For example, "Compiles lists of books, periodicals, articles and audio-visual materials on particular subjects."]

5. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Think back to the Mystery Careers from the beginning of class. How can you form an opinion about what you would like or dislike about a career?

[Students should recall that they can form an opinion about what they would like or dislike about a career by reading about the duties in a career and considering which ones they are likely to enjoy and which ones they are not likely to enjoy. Relate this to the likes and dislikes in the **Warm Up**.]

8. Now read, or have a volunteer read, the prompt in row 5. Use the LCD again, which should still be on the **What They Do** page for Librarian. Read the **What They Do** page out loud. Ask students to share their opinions on which job duties, tasks, and working conditions they would like and which they would dislike. Model how to record these ideas on **Portfolio page 3, Compare Careers: What They Do**.

9. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Now look at items 6 and 7 of **Portfolio page 3, What They Do**. These questions ask for your personal opinion about whether this is a good career for you. As you collect information about each career, you need to consider whether the career is a good match for your interests and skills. For example, question 6 asks, “What about this job interests me?” Write your answer in the box. If nothing about the career interests you, then write the word “nothing” in the box. You will repeat this for each of your three careers.

[Explain to students that prompt 7 asks about how their skills compare to the ones required for the career. To figure this out, remind students that they will need to review the duties and tasks they listed in the first box. Point out that while they may not yet have the specific skills required to succeed in the career, they may already have certain skills that are similar to the ones they will need one day. Provide an example, such as someone who is really comfortable changing a tire or doing an oil change, and loves working with their hands, may have what it takes to be a mechanic. Another example: someone who has a lot of experience babysitting might have the skills needed to be an elementary school teacher.]

10. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Now is your chance to investigate each of your three careers, comparing what you learn online with your own skills and interests. Have fun!

[Circulate around the computer lab, helping students as needed.]

III. WRAP UP: Discussion (5 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Great job, everybody! As you probably discovered, it is important to form an opinion about what you would like and dislike about a career. What did you learn about one of your careers today that surprised you? [Allow several students to reply.]

2. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Now take a moment to review your **Portfolio page 3, Comparing Careers: What They Do**. Which careers are you still seriously considering? Which are you having doubts about? Why?

[Invite volunteers to respond. Encourage them to share the information in the What They Do section that suggested that a career was a good fit for them—or not.]

3. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Good job today. Next week, you'll investigate working conditions, earnings, and the education needed for each of your careers.

DO NOW

Careers 3: Investigating Careers

Directions: You will have three minutes to read the questions and write your answers.

Questions:

1. In our last class, you selected three careers to research. List them in the space below.

2. Pick one career and explain why you think it would be a good fit for your skills and interests.

3. Imagine you are a person with the career you chose in question 2. Predict one thing about the job you might dislike. Explain your answer.

Mystery Careers

Mystery Career #1		
Duties	Likes	Dislikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluates, advises, and trains athletes to maintain their physical fitness. Cares for athletic injuries using physical therapy equipment, techniques, and medication. Administers emergency first aid, treats minor injuries, and refers injured people to a physician. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working within a team environment. Taking care of injuries and helping athletes recover quickly. Watching games and practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Really long hours, typically 12–14 hours a day. Dealing with clerical (paper) work. Constantly traveling away from home and having to deal with delayed/overbooked flights.
Mystery Career: ATHLETIC TRAINER		

Mystery Career #2		
Duties	Likes	Dislikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines animals to determine the nature of disease or injury. Treats sick or injured animals by prescribing medication, setting bones, dressing wounds or performing surgery. Collects body tissue, feces, blood, urine or other bodily fluids for examination and analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doing surgeries because I enjoy seeing how quickly animals heal after it. Working with animals and helping their owners make important decisions about their pets. Being my own boss. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing my staff to make sure that everyone is getting along and working well together. Working 12 to 14 hour days (60 to 80 hours in a week). Salaries are low compared to other professions with similar education and training.
Mystery Career: VETERINARIAN		

RUPrepareND.com Directions

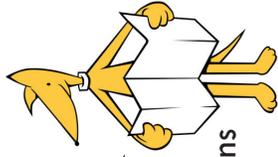
Career Profile: What They Do

I. Connecting to RUPrepareND.com

- Turn on the computer.
- Click on the icon that connects to the Internet (Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, etc.).
- Type the web address into the dialog box (**RUPrepareND.com**).
- When the RUPrepareND.com home page appears enter your account name and password.

II. Career Profile: What They Do

- Type in the name of the career you want to search for in the **Search** box at the top of the page and click **Go**. If more than one career appears, choose the career that is the most interesting to you. (As an example, type in Librarian, and click **Go**.)
- When the link appears, click it to access the Career Profile. The first page that you see will be the **What They Do** section.
- Remember, you can also search for careers alphabetically by clicking a letter on the Explore Careers page in the Career Planning section.



Use these pages to record the info for the careers you're considering.

COMPARING CAREERS: WHAT THEY DO

List the careers you're considering in the boxes at the top of the chart. For each career, answer the questions in the box on the left.

		Career 1:	Career 2:	Career 3:
4	What They Do	<p>List three things that a person with this career has to do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
5	My Opinion	<p>List at least one like and one dislike about this career.</p>		
6	My Opinion	<p>What about this job interests me?</p>		
7	My Opinion	<p>What do I do now that uses a skill similar to one needed for this job?</p>		

