



The Trades Activity

Setup:

- Arrange the students' desks into three equal groups.
- Hang the house poster in front of the room using magnets.
- Place the buzzer system on a desk/table at the front of the room.
- Set up the buzzer system with three different colored buzzers. Use the white buzzer to reset the three colored buzzers.

Goal: Students will be able to:

- Define skilled trade jobs
- Gain an understanding of the importance of skilled trade jobs in daily life
- Understand the different types of education required for trade careers

Introduce yourself and briefly share your career/education background.

Preface to Activity: (5 minutes)

“Today we will be learning about skilled trade jobs and why they are important to our community.”

Use the flashcards to define:

- **Skills** –the ability to do something well; expertise.
 - Ask for examples. Possible answers: math, music, writing, soccer, problem solving and communication.
- **High-Growth Careers** – Careers that have more jobs than qualified employees.
 - Explain that many high-growth careers are in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) field; however, skilled/trade school jobs are now considered high-growth jobs.
 - The federal government does research to determine which jobs will be high-demand, high growth jobs.
 - Ask students why it's important to know which careers are high-growth.
 - This information helps schools, colleges, and young people prepare for career opportunities in professions where there is a need for certain skills.
 - It is important for young people to focus on skills that are in demand rather than concentrate on a specific job.

- **Trade Jobs** – Careers that require specific education/training less than a four-year bachelor’s degree. Currently, there are 30 million jobs in the US that pay an average of \$55,000 a year and do not require a four-year degree.
 - Types of “specific education/training” are beyond a high school diploma and include:
 - a two-year associate degree
 - an apprenticeship (on the job training)
 - a certification (a document attesting to a level of achievement obtained by classroom learning/testing)

Activity – Who Do You Call? (15 minutes)

This is a Family-Feud style game.

Supplies:

- House/Community Poster
- Buzzer System
- Tradespeople Playing Pieces
- Who Do You Call? Question and Answer Sheet

The object of the game is to get as many of your team’s tradespeople playing pieces onto the poster as possible by correctly answering questions.

Instructions:

- Pass out the tradespeople playing pieces; each group gets a different color. Give students **2-3 minutes** to look over and discuss the occupations listed on the playing pieces. **Check to see if they have questions about any of the occupations.**
- One student from each of the three groups will approach the buzzer at the front of the room.
- The JA volunteer will ask a question from the laminated “Who Do You Call?” question and answer sheet.
- Students must wait until the question is read to its entirety before pressing their buzzer.
- The first student to press his/her buzzer gets the opportunity to answer the question.
 - If the answer is correct:
 - He or she will go to his or her group and find the matching tradesperson playing piece and place it on the poster.
 - If the answer is incorrect:
 - Ask the question again to the two remaining students.

*Note: It is not important for the students to use the correct terminology.
“Mechanic” may be used instead of “auto technician”, etc.

- If a fun fact is available, read it to the students as the playing piece is added to the poster.
- A different student from each of the three groups comes to the front for the next round of play.
- Play continues until all questions have been read and the corresponding playing pieces added to the poster.
- Calculate the score by counting the number of playing pieces each team has on the poster. The highest number is the winner.

Closing/Talking Points (as time permits):

- Were you aware that trade jobs are in high demand?
- What is one benefit of learning a skilled trade?
 - Possible answers:
 - The students can start their education/training as early as high school. That allows you to start making money earlier.
 - Less educational debt.
 - Many trade careers are high-growth and high-demand.
 - Many careers do not require workers to be in an office and are great for those that love the outdoors or do not want to sit at a desk.
- What most surprised you about skilled jobs?
 - Possible answers:
 - The various educational requirements.
 - The pay of many jobs.
 - The number of skilled workers that are needed in our community and homes.

End of Day Clean-Up Checklist – Place the following back in the bin:

- Set of Blue People (18)
- Set of Green People (18)
- Set of Yellow People (18)
- Who Do You Call? Q&A sheet (1)
- Community Poster (1)
 - Magnetic clips (4) or tape
- Eggspert Buzzer system (1)
- Extra batteries and screwdriver, if used.
- Volunteer Instructions Folder
 - Definition Cards – skills, high growth, trade jobs (3)
 - Recap Question Card (1)
 - Finale Question Card (1)

- Thank the teacher for allowing JA in their classroom today.
- Return Bin to JA staff in hospitality area.

Smile. You made a difference today!

Revised July 2023