

ELEMENTARY CAREER STUDIES

Teacher Notes

Elementary career studies emphasize career awareness and exploration – not career choice. Career exploration at the elementary school level should allow children to become more self-aware of their skills, abilities and interests and how those traits relate to future career goals. Integrating career conversations across the curriculum allows students to connect the classroom to the real world. The goal of elementary career studies is to provide:

- equal access to career exploration
- opportunities to explore interests, abilities, values and goals
- develop the mindset that learning is lifelong for any career they pursue

CAREER EXPLORATION CONTINUUM

PRIMARY GRADES

Students in kindergarten and 1st grade should be introduced to careers in their community. Students in the 2nd and 3rd grade can understand the similarities and differences between groups of careers making this an ideal time to introduce the [sixteen \(16\) career clusters](#). This organizational framework is important to future career development and understanding future career pathways. INTERMEDIATE GRADES

Rather than focusing on a career, students in the 4th and 5th grades should begin the process of self-discovery through exploring the knowledge, skills and working environments common to careers within the 16 clusters. The resource within this document, “Dig Deeper,” provides sample tasks that allow students to explore those skills and knowledge. The resource, “Is a Career in (*cluster*) for Me?” guides students to reflect to determine their interest in this cluster.

USING THIS DOCUMENT

These activities do not constitute a curriculum, rather they provide a variety of activities to be used within the context of a career studies program that spans K-5. Resources progress by grade level from kindergarten to 5th grade and may be modified to meet student needs. For each cluster, instructional routines may include:

- **Engage** students through videos, online activities, guest speakers or hands on activities
- **Explore** by using texts from the cluster book list as read alouds or part of the classroom library
- **Extend** learning by using resources from this document in learning centers, individual work or group projects

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks is given to the [Delaware Career Resource Network](#) and the [Labor Market and Career Information \(LMCI\) department of the Texas Workforce Commission](#) for granting permission to revise and include their resources in this document.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Teacher Resource

Note: Careers in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources are divided into pathways. Listed below are some of the careers found in each pathway and range from entry level to those that require post-secondary training, certificates and/or degrees. This list serves only to build educator background knowledge. Students are not introduced to career pathways until the 6th – 8th grade band.

Agribusiness Systems

These professionals support the production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing and development of agriculture products and services.

- Agriculture Products Distributer
- Farm Manager
- Entrepreneur
- Agricultural Lender/Banker/Loan Officer

Animal Systems

People with careers in this pathway work to promote the health of food, and service and companion animals.

- Dairy Producer/Manager
- Livestock Producer/Inspector
- Veterinarian
- Wildlife Biologist

Environmental Services and Systems

Environmental experts keep the land, water and air safe. They monitor wastewater systems, conduct research and analyze data to monitor and evaluate effects on public health.

- Environmental Scientist/Technician
- Solid Waste Technician/Manager
- Chemical Engineer
- Water Environment Manager

Food Products and Process Systems

People who work in this pathway create, monitor and evaluate food sources and production to meet consumer need and ensure public safety.

- Food and Drug Inspector
- Meat Cutter/Grader
- Biochemist-Nutritionist
- Microbiologist

Natural Resources Systems

Specialists in this pathway work to maintain forests and the natural environment.

- Commercial Fisherman
- Park Manager
- Fish and Game Officer
- Geologist

Plant Systems

These professionals study the growth of plants and the effect on the environment.

- Biotechnology Lab Technician
- Green House Manager
- Botanist
- Plant Biologist

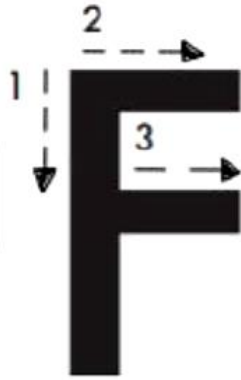
Power, Structural and Technical Systems

People who work in this pathway use, repair and design agricultural machinery and equipment through knowledge of engineering, hydraulics, pneumatics, electronics, power, structures and controls.

- Heavy Equipment Maintenance Technician
- Machinist
- Agricultural Applications Software Developer
- Agricultural Engineer

Alphabet Letter Printing Worksheet

Practice writing each upper case and lower case letter on the lines below as shown on the sample letters. Then write the name of the occupation.





Farmer

Alphabet Letter Printing Worksheet

Practice writing each upper case and lower case letter on the lines below as shown on the sample letters. Then write the name of the occupation.





Veterinarian

Name the Animal

Write the name of the animal under each picture. Use these words:

pig cow cat duck horse dog













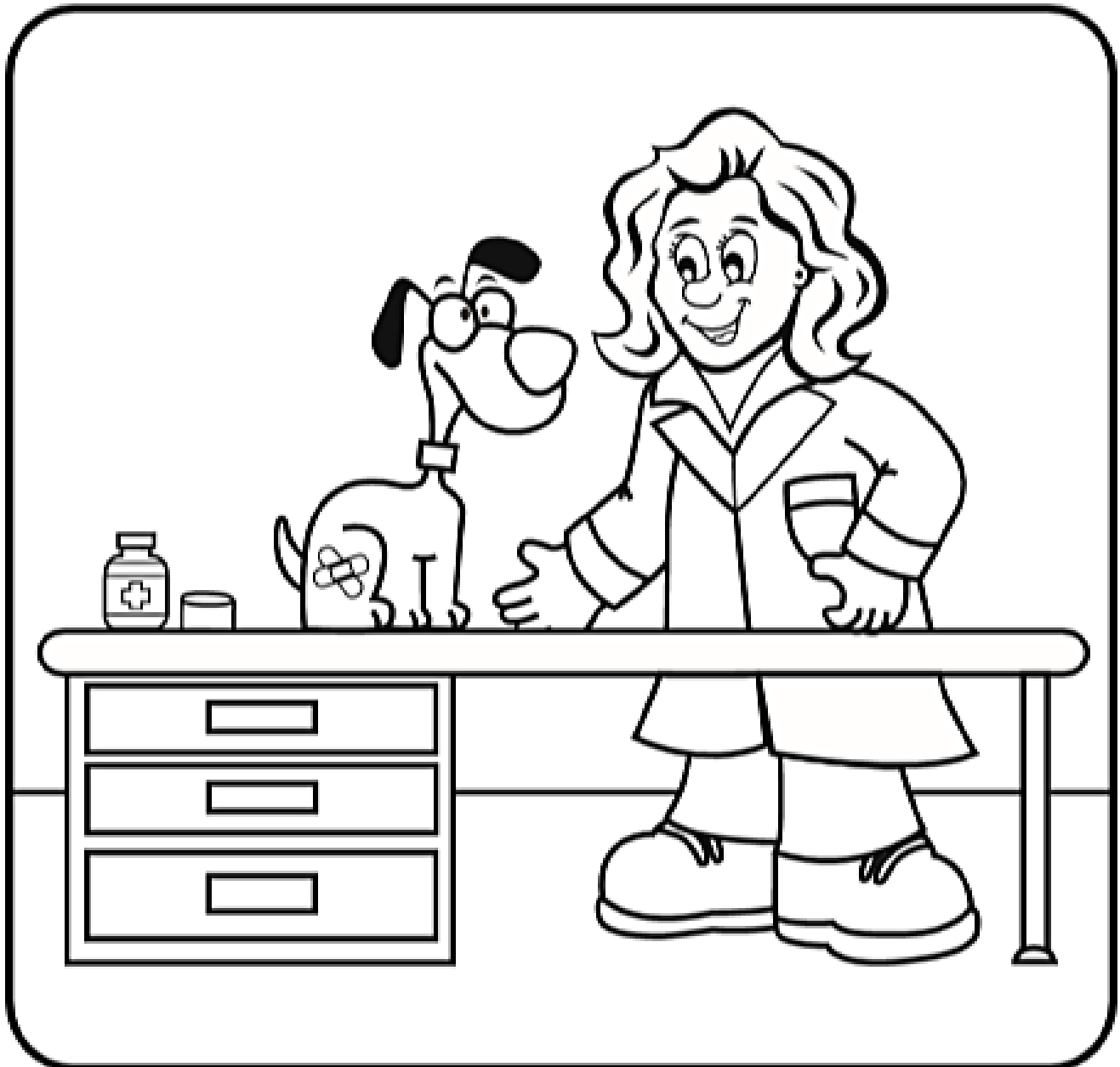
AGRICULTURE



FARMER

Farmers grow fruits, vegetables and other foods we eat. Visit your local farmers' market to get the freshest fruits and vegetables from farms near your home.

VETERINARIAN



Veterinarians take care of animals. They take care of healthy animals and they give medicine to sick animals to help them feel better.

SECRET MESSAGE ACTIVITY

Using the codes at the bottom of the page, fill in the blanks with the letter that matches each picture. This will reveal the veterinarian's secret message to you.



 = G

 = I


 = T

 = O

 = L

 = V

 = U

 = A

 = Y

 = R


 = E

 = N

 = P

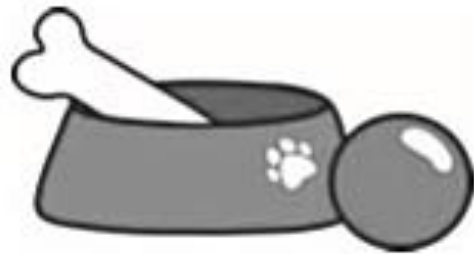
 = F

 = S

 = D

VETERINARIAN TOOLS ACTIVITY

Circle the items that a veterinarian would use for his or her daily work.



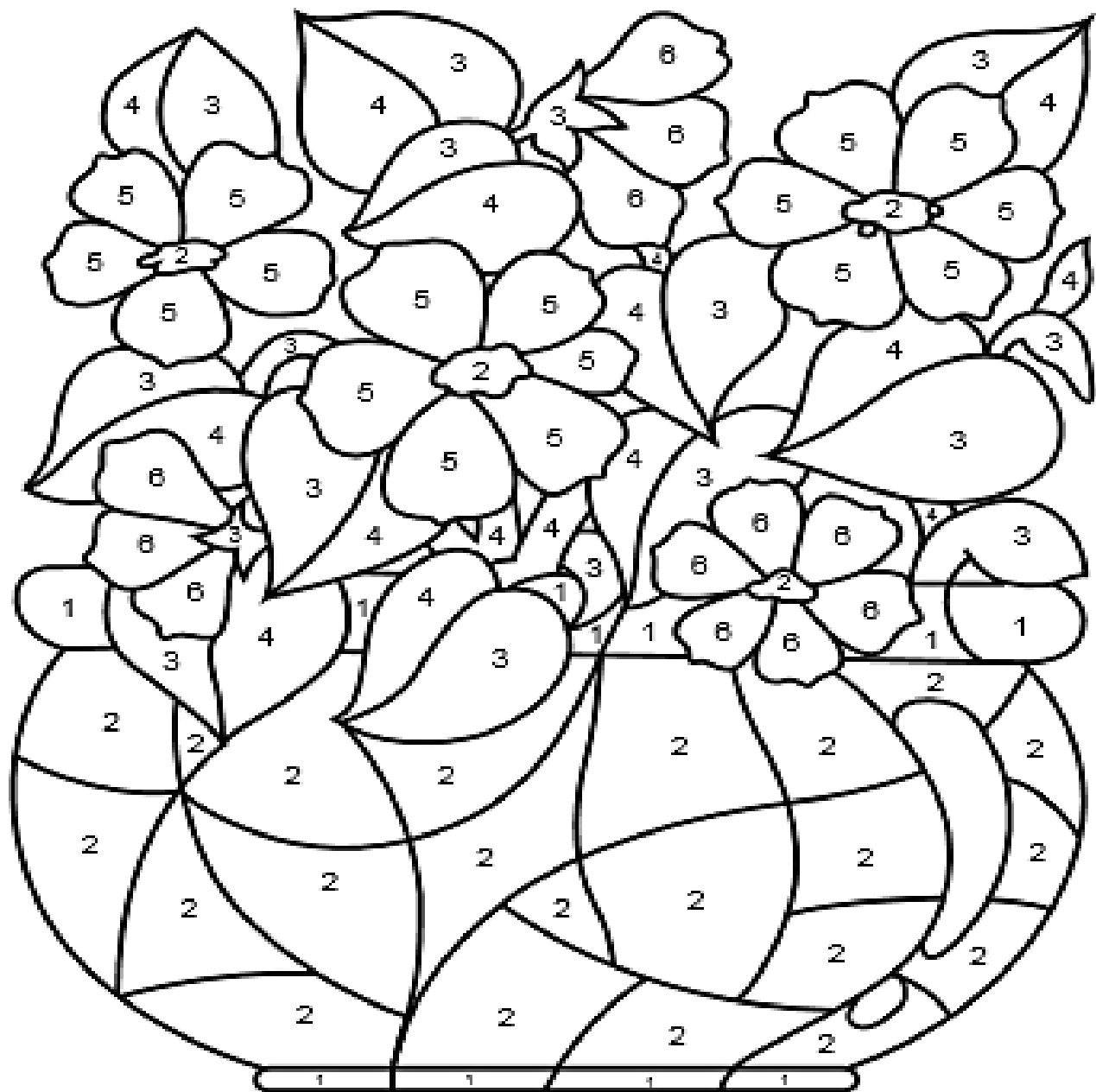
FLORIST



Florists cut and arrange flowers for people to buy for special occasions such as birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries.

COLOR BY NUMBER ACTIVITY

Color by number using the colors listed at the bottom of this page.



1. Red 2. Yellow 3. Light Green 4. Dark Green 5. Blue 6. Purple

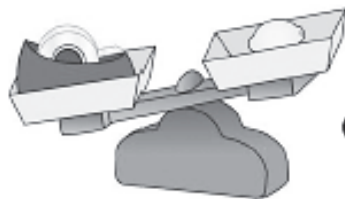
PLANT BIOLOGIST



Plant biologists study plants and the conditions under which they grow best. They test soil samples and study the effects of pollution, pesticides and fertilizers on plant growth.

What tools might a plant biologist use?

Draw a line that matches the words to the pictures.



● Scientist

● Magnifying Glass

● Experiment

● Scale

● Goggles

● Test Tubes

● Microscope

● Laboratory



Sample Careers

1. Pest Controller
2. Farm Equipment Mechanic
3. Veterinarian
4. Grounds Keeper
5. _____

Can you think of another?

Careers in the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources cluster help us to wisely utilize what Mother Nature gave us. People in these kinds of occupations can work with plants, trees and animals. They work on farms, in veterinary offices, forests or even out at sea. They mow lawns, catch fish, grow food and raise animals. You can be an engineer, pest control worker, farmer, tree pruner or forest worker and be in this career cluster.





Name _____

Draw a picture of someone working with plants, trees or animals.

Would you like to do this type of work? Explain why or why not.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES CAREERS

R	E	M	R	A	F	G	D	R	O	I	R	S	E
G	A	E	H	U	W	E	L	D	E	R	E	R	Q
R	E	A	A	N	B	R	T	I	L	E	G	E	U
T	C	R	I	A	E	U	S	C	G	Q	A	C	I
S	O	R	Y	I	A	E	I	T	A	R	N	U	N
I	L	R	B	R	R	N	M	S	M	R	A	D	E
N	O	T	O	A	E	E	E	I	E	A	M	O	M
I	G	O	T	N	A	R	H	G	O	N	K	R	A
H	I	A	A	I	R	P	C	O	F	C	R	P	N
C	S	N	N	R	R	E	O	L	F	H	A	Y	A
A	T	M	I	E	G	R	I	O	I	E	P	R	G
M	C	P	S	T	A	T	B	E	C	R	P	I	E
I	N	A	T	E	E	N	S	G	E	P	I	A	R
T	B	T	B	V	G	E	G	I	R	D	T	D	W

PARK MANAGER
WELDER
BOTANIST
ECOLOGIST
EQUINE MANAGER
VETERINARIAN
ENTREPRENEUR

BIOCHEMIST
GAME OFFICER
MACHINIST
FARMER
GEOLOGIST
DAIRY PRODUCER
RANCHER

Play this puzzle online at: <http://bit.ly/3bl0IEr>

DIG DEEPER

Note: These tasks serve only to generate ideas and connect real world activities to academic content. **Exploratory Tasks** may be teacher led through a class project, demonstration or assignment. **Extension Tasks** may be modified to align with ELA, math, science or social studies content through writing, determining/comparing costs, human impact, etc.

Exploratory Tasks	Extension Tasks
Plant flowers or vegetables.	Create a timeline with pictures, details and/or measurements.
Pick up litter and recycle in your school or neighborhood.	Create a flyer to encourage other to recycle.
Help take care of a pet.	Create a video to explain important aspects of being a pet owner.
Visit or research a working farm or zoo.	Create a flip book to describe the needs and care of one of the animals.
Identify trees and shrubs in your neighborhood.	Create a video collage to share your information.
Learn about local fishing regulations.	Create an infographic to inform others of the regulations.

Is a Career in Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources for Me?

Would you be interested in a career in Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources? Below are knowledge and skill statements related to the careers in this cluster. Read each statement. Decide if this describes you by checking the Yes, No or Maybe box.

THINGS I LIKE TO DO	YES	NO	MAYBE
Learn how things grow and stay alive			
Make the best use of the earth's natural resources			
Hunt and/or fish			
Protect the environment			
Be outdoors in all kinds of weather			
Plan, budget and keep records			
Learn how machines and/or tools work			
PERSONAL QUALITIES THAT DESCRIBE ME	YES	NO	MAYBE
Self-reliant			
Nature lover			
Physically active			
Planner			
Creative problem solver			
SCHOOL SUBJECTS THAT INTEREST ME	YES	NO	MAYBE
Math			
Life sciences			
Earth sciences			
Chemistry			

Did you check YES most often? If so, continue to explore careers and opportunities in this cluster. And don't forget to focus on your math and science classes to build the academic skills you need for these careers.

Did you check NO most often? If so, don't worry. There hundreds of jobs to explore in the other 15 career cluster.

Did you check MAYBE most often? If so, continue to explore in this cluster as well as investigating how your skills and interests may be a good match in other clusters as well.