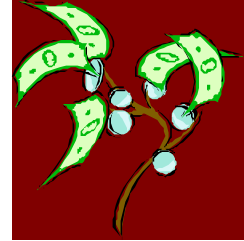


## Topic: Careers

Grade: Eight

An integrated lesson plan covering 7 sessions of approximately 1 hours each.



### Lesson-Planning Approach

Some learners perceive their “world” as a whole, where all things are interconnected and dependent upon each other. These “integrated” students face major challenges in coping with our dominant educational, social, and economic systems, which tend to present information in a linear fashion without the necessity of integration into meaningful context. Integrated students are at-risk of failing as they attempt to grasp information in ways that do not match their experience. Among large populations of at-risk students are many from Native American and similar cultures who do not regard their world as a sum of parts but as a blend of all that they experience.

This lesson plan does include some traditional, linear approaches to delivering information (checklists, rules, analysis, problem solving and organization). In addition to the traditional, linear delivery of information, this lesson plan also includes some of the following strategies, designed to appeal to at-risk students as they learn academic/life skills:

- ↗ Integration of technology
- ↗ Story telling/anecdotal information
- ↗ Non-competitive group and team work
- ↗ Performance-based assessment and rubrics
- ↗ Visual presentations and practice through technology and other means
- ↗ Project-based assignments that integrate family and community
- ↗ Activities appealing to multiple intelligences (Gardner)

### Lesson Overview

In this lesson students will research careers to determine which career they are interested in. They will figure the budget for the lifestyle they prefer to live. They will compare their possible income to their possible budget.

### Lesson Objectives

**Project Objectives: When students complete this session, they will be able to...**

- ↗ Produce a paper and spreadsheet showing their career and budget
- ↗ Design a spreadsheet
- ↗ Design a budget
- ↗ Compute taxes

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- ✚ Apply math skills to a real life situation

**Integration of Other Functional/Academic Skills:** (Critical thinking is required throughout the lesson.) Students will be able to...

- ✚ Writing: Write descriptions of careers
- ✚ Reading: Read for specific information
- ✚ Technology: Use the Internet to find information
- ✚ Technology: Use an Excel spreadsheet

## State/National Standards (Complete as Appropriate)

- ✚ Colorado Standard 6: Students link concepts and procedures as they develop and use computational techniques, including estimation, mental arithmetic, paper and pencil, calculators, and computers, in problem-solving situations and communicate the reasoning used in solving these problems.
- ✚ NCTM Problem Solving Standard: Students should be able to solve problems that arise in mathematics and in other contexts.

## Websites

**Required:**

[www.financialplan.about.com/library/blbudget.htm](http://www.financialplan.about.com/library/blbudget.htm) This site has the budget worksheet that I used as a worksheet. It has many articles about budgeting.

[www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/ind\\_info/tax\\_tables](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/ind_info/tax_tables) This site has the tax tables showing how much tax you must pay for the income made.

[www.coldwellbanker.com](http://www.coldwellbanker.com) This is one of many real estate companies that will give the price of houses anywhere you want to live.

[www.buyingadvice.com/invoices.htm](http://www.buyingadvice.com/invoices.htm) This site gives the invoice price on cars.

[www.1-800autoyes.com/loan\\_calculator.asp](http://www.1-800autoyes.com/loan_calculator.asp) This site has a calculator that allows you to put in the information about a loan and it will give the monthly payments.

<http://cx.bridges.com> This is a site that costs a membership fee. It is expensive, but our School to Work program bought the membership for our school. It is an extremely good site for careers. I looked all over the web and found nothing as good. It gives careers by interest areas or by categories. It gives salary information. It has a section where it shows what math is needed for each career. It gives information about the career you choose. It has much more, but that is all that I looked at.

**Support:**

## Pre-requisites

- ↗ Knowledge of Excel
- ↗ Knowledge of Internet

## Handouts

- ↗ Handout One – What to look for in your career choice.
- ↗ Handout Two – What to include in your budget.

## Required Equipment/Technology

- ↗ Computers
- ↗ Internet Access
- ↗ PowerPoint slide show
- ↗ MS Excel

## THE LESSON

**Note:** Students do not learn from what you do but from what you have them do.

### Preparation

#### Day One

Activity	Instructor Notes
View PowerPoint slide show.	<b>This introduces the project.</b>

### Presentation

#### Day Two

Discuss with a guest speaker what must be considered when making a budget.	<b>I plan to have a guest speaker from the community come in and discuss what is needed in a budget.</b>
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### Performance and Practice

#### Day Three through Seven

Instructions for students	Teacher notes
Using the web site: <a href="http://cx.bridges.com">http://cx.bridges.com</a> research careers that you are interested in. Choose a couple of careers and find the information requested on Handout One. Write a description of the job including the information you found from Handout One.	<b>This may take a couple of days. It will depend on how interested the students are in looking at the careers.</b>
Design a spreadsheet for your budget. Include at least the topics on Handout Two. You may include more if you want.	<b>This will take two or three days because of the amount of information the students need to look up on the Internet.</b>

## Lesson Assessment Strategy (Formative – As the lesson progresses)

### Preparation, Presentation and Overall Implementation (Instructor)

1. Are the instructions and expectations for the class clear from the beginning?
2. Am I spending sufficient time on modeling the skills I want students to acquire?
3. Is there enough variety in the lesson to appeal to most learning preferences?
4. How many learning intelligences am I addressing?
5. Are students “connecting” to lesson objectives? How?
6. How is this lesson “integrated?”

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## Performance and Practice (Student)

1. Do all students have the skills to follow instructions? If not, what measures am I taking to address the challenge?
2. Are all students participating in the activities either by active observation or by voicing their thoughts?
3. Am I identifying the strengths of each student and pairing/grouping people accordingly? What results am I getting?
4. How are students performing? Are all of them able meeting 80% of the lesson objectives? If not, what am I doing to help them achieve more?

## Technology

1. Is the technology working?
2. How are students reacting to the technology?
3. How are students applying or wanting to apply their technical skills in other areas?
4. What do I need to remember when I teach this lesson again?

## **Handout**

### **Handout One**

- ❑ Education/training required?
- ❑ What math or communication required?
- ❑ Physical demands?
- ❑ Salary?
- ❑ Hazards?
- ❑ Work in office or field?
- ❑ Work hours?
- ❑ How much demand for the job?

## Handout Two

In you budget you need to include:

- House mortgage
- Utilities (gas, water, electric, trash)
- Telephone
- Car payments
- Gas/Oil
- Child Care (if you plan to need it)
- Insurance (car, life, health, dental, vision, home)
- Entertainment (movies, cable TV, eating out)
- Food
- Gifts
- Savings/Investments
- Hobbies
- Taxes (federal, state, social security, medicare)
- Home and Car Repairs
- Pets
- Miscellaneous

## Activity Checklist

	View PowerPoint slide show.
	Discuss with a guest speaker what must be considered when making a budget.
	Using the web site: <a href="http://cx.bridges.com">http://cx.bridges.com</a> research careers that you are interested in. Choose a couple of careers and find the information requested on Handout One. Write a description of the job including the information you found from Handout One.
	Design a spreadsheet for your budget. Include at least the topics on Handout Two. You may include more if you want.

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## Technology Checklist

Using the Bridges Website	
	Open Explorer
	Enter the address: <a href="http://cx.bridges.com">http://cx.bridges.com</a>
	Choose "American"
	Choose "Student"
	Enter User Name and Password
	Choose Browse if you want to look over the choices or choose Search if you want to find a specific career.

## Lesson Rubric

Item to Score	0	1	2	3
Guest Speaker	Did not participate Distractive	Listened, but asked no questions	Attentive and asked questions	Attentive, asked questions, and took notes
Career Research	No information	Took notes on some topics, but only one career	Took notes on all areas, but only one career	Took notes on all topics and had at least two careers
Descriptive Paragraph	No written assignment turned in	Many mistakes in punctuation, grammar, spelling, and sentence structure	Some mistakes in punctuation, grammar, spelling, and sentence structure	No mistakes in punctuation, grammar, spelling, and sentence structure
Budget	Not done	Some topics included with some of the information	All topics are in the table, but not all information	All topics are included with all information
Spreadsheet	Not done	Made spreadsheet, did no formatting	Used formulas and had some formatting	Used formulas and formatted spacing, justification, and used money numbers