

Module A: Lesson Plan 3: Understanding the Workplace

Topic: Local Businesses and Their Contribution to the Community

Standard(s): Students will:

- 1.0 Describe the influences that societal, economic, and technological changes have on employment trends and future training.
- 2.0 Develop skills to locate, evaluate, and interpret career information.

Length: Two class periods

Objective: Students will learn about local businesses and the role they play in the community as well as their contributions to society and the economy.

Materials: Telephone books or Internet-enabled computing devices

Description of Activity:

1. Discuss with students some of the different types of businesses that operate locally.
2. Divide the class into groups. Provide each group with a telephone book or Internet-enabled computing device.
3. Assign each group one of the following categories or add additional categories:
 - a. Construction
 - b. Health care
 - c. Food service
 - d. Transportation
 - e. Recreation
 - f. Law
 - g. Manufacturing
 - h. Communication
 - i. Repair work (any area)
 - j. Beauty
 - k. Finance
 - j. Home improvement

Note: Explain the categories so that students will know how to use the Yellow Pages or Internet to look for specific businesses in each category.

4. Assign each group to find 3-4 businesses in the assigned category and use the Yellow Page Ads or the Internet to find out what the business does.
5. Have the groups share their descriptions of these businesses with the class. Include in the discussion the contribution the business makes to the local economy and to the people that live there. Identify jobs that might be available with different businesses.
6. Have students discuss what the community would be like without the businesses discussed. For instance, if certain products or services were not available locally, people would drive to another city or order from a catalog or the Internet. How does this affect the economy in your community?

Additional Activities:

Invite someone from the Chamber of Commerce or other business to discuss the local economy, businesses, future growth, etc.

Evaluation:

Students will be able to describe three-five businesses in the community and how they contribute to the economy and society.

Suggested Internet Resources:

- Look for websites for local Chambers of Commerce to list business in your area of the state or local government sites for your city or county.
 - Examples: Orlando area: <http://www.orlando.org/index.php>, Ft. Myers area: <http://www.fortmyers.org/>, Walton County area: <http://www.waltonareachamber.com/>