

Saving Peter's Packets Networking & Positive Uses of Computers

For Grades 5-6

Try Out a Tech Career

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Teacher Summary

Students learn about the many careers that feature skills in technology and consider these careers for the future. They use online resources and creative thinking skills to complete the lesson.

This lesson can be completed in one to two 50-minute periods.

Objectives

- To introduce information technology-related careers
- To encourage girls to consider careers in technology
- To open students' minds to the many aspects of careers in technology
- To help students understand the importance of education in their future

ISTE NETS: Standards for Students

Basic operations and concepts:

- Students demonstrate a sound understanding of the nature and operation of technology systems.
- Students are proficient in the use of technology.

Social, ethical and human issues:

- Students practice responsible use of technology systems, information, and software.
- Students develop positive attitudes toward technology uses that support lifelong learning, collaboration, personal pursuits, and productivity.

Technology research tools:

- Students use technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources.

Technology problem-solving and decision-making tools:

- Students use technology resources to solve problems and make informed decisions.
- Students employ technology to develop strategies for solving problems in the real world.

Preparations for the Lesson

Students will need to be able to go online to check out career opportunities. If you don't have one computer for each student, divide the class into all-boy and all-girl groups.

Although there are numerous sites that focus upon technology-related careers, many of them are too detailed for this age group. The sites listed in our Additional Resources should be on a level that is of interest to these students. You may also know of or find other sites that would work for this lesson.

Lesson Directions

1. Introduce the topic of technology-related careers. Ask your students to consider which tech careers were involved in the making of Peter Packet and which careers are related to the Peter Packet content, such as programmers, software engineers, designers, graphic artists, tech writers, tech editors, Web developers, network specialists, computer technicians, network designers, systems engineers, information technology managers, marketing professionals, and educators.
2. Let the students list all the tech-related careers they can think of on the chalkboard. Discuss the importance of technology in other jobs such as careers in art, science, entertainment, and business. Have them brainstorm how computers might be used in these occupations.
3. Let students visit the suggested websites to learn more about tech-related careers. As they browse the sites, instruct them to research one tech career and tell the class about it.
4. When the students complete their presentations, have them tell the class which careers they found most interesting. Ask them if they can see themselves on one of these careers in the future.
5. Bring up the fact that fewer girls than boys select occupations such as network troubleshooting, computer systems design, software engineering, and many of the higher paying careers in the field. Ask your students why they think this is. Will the girls in your class opt for other careers, and if so, for what reason? Do they think that most people will be using computers in careers of the future?
6. For a home assignment, have the students design their ideal tech-related career. Will it be one where they go to an office, work from home, or travel the world? Will it be one in which they can use their creativity, artistic skills, organizational abilities, or interest in helping others?
7. Present students with the [Networking Certificate <Instructors>Lessons>Unit Packet>Career Lesson>completed.pdf](#).

Additional Activities

Technology Professionals

Invite members of the community with tech-related careers to your classroom to talk to your students or arrange for your students to have a video conference with a technology expert.

Role Playing & Drawing the Future

Let your students dress up and act out their view of themselves engaged in their favorite tech-related job, or draw an image of what it will be like.

Additional Career Resources

Career Opportunities in Information Technology

<<http://www.computer.org/education/careers.htm#career>>

Information on a variety of tech-related careers

Streaming Careers (online video interviews with IT leaders)

<<http://www.kidzonline.org/StreamingFutures/careervideo.asp?careerid=7>>

Video clips of leaders in the field of technology

Girl Power – Cool Tech Jobs

<<http://www.girlpower.gov/girlarea/sciencetech/jobs/index.htm>>

Interesting career opportunities for girls

Get Tech

<<http://www.gettech.org/default2.asp>>

Nice site that promotes tech careers

Girls Go Tech

<<http://www.girlsgotech.org/careers.html>>

Additional information on girls and technology

What Interests You?

<http://www.bls.gov/k12/>

Explores a variety of careers, not all tech-related