

Career Girls: Importance of Math

Lesson Topic:

Importance of Math

Lesson Objective:

To help students understand the importance math plays in career success as well as in everyday living.

Warm-up Activity:

1. Ask students to share their ideas about how they regard math.
2. Help students who report that they “hate” math or “are not good at” math to talk about their negative experiences with math.
3. Guide students to reframe their negative notions regarding math so they are able to tell themselves better stories about the acquisition of math skills and concepts. For example, if students report that they tell themselves “Math is hard,” help them reframe that story into something like, “Math can be challenging, but I can do it!”

View the Video: “Importance of Math”

1. Preview the video before sharing it with your students.
2. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, “Importance of Math.”
3. Explain that the video presents role models discussing the importance of developing positive attitudes when learning math.
4. Point out that each of the role models in the video speaks positively about acquiring math skills.
5. Invite students to listen to the last role model who speaks in the video and to tell why her contribution differs from the rest.

6. View the video together.
7. View the video again; this time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the benefits of mastering math skills and concepts as discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.
8. Have students tell about positive experiences they have had when learning math skills and concepts.

Video Follow-up:

1. Ask students to discuss or write about their video-related questions, comments, reactions and responses.
2. Invite students to note any new information they learned about math education. (E.g., "I liked the idea that I can think about math as a language that flows. Thinking of math that way makes it easier for me to not be so afraid of it.")
3. Encourage students to edit any written work so it can be shared with classmates.
4. Use student writings as a springboard to further discussion.

Extension Activity:

Have students use the Career Girls website to discover careers that rely on math.

Encourage students to ask the adults in their lives to tell if and how they use math in their careers.

Related Questions to Explore:

Use the list of questions below to help students understand how and why math mastery can help their dreams come true.

- How many careers can you name that rely on math for success?
- Why do you think many of the role models in the video agree that it's important to learn math skills and concepts even if you are not planning a career that involves math? Use real life examples to explain your answer.
- The first speaker said, "Math is really important now because it equates to money later." Explain what she meant and whether or not you agree. Give a real life example of someone who has used math skills successfully to earn more money.
- One of the role models in the video said that knowing math helps "bolster confidence." Explain what she meant and whether or not you agree.
- Some of the role models explained what you should do if you are afraid of math. Do you think it's important to "make peace" with math instead of being afraid of it? Why or why not?
- How can you learn more about careers that involve math?
- What are some ways the role models in the video may have prepared for their careers involving math? How do you know?