

Career Girls: Science Careers

Lesson Topic:

Science Careers

Lesson Objective:

To introduce students to the positive benefits of preparing for a career in science.

Warm-up Activity:

1. Provide each student a copy of the **List of Role Model Science Careers** represented in the video.
2. Have students circle the careers they are familiar with and research the rest. Have students note any new information they learned about any of the careers listed.
3. After completing their research, have students work together and/or with you to put into their own words what each role model does when on the job as well as what they enjoy most about her job.
4. Use this opportunity to clarify or clear up any misconceptions regarding the career labels and benefits.

View the Video: "Science Careers"

1. Preview the video before sharing it with your students.
2. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Science Careers."
3. Explain that the video presents eight separate role models talking about why a career in science is very desirable and fulfilling.
4. Point out that each of the role models in the video works in one of the science careers on the list you shared earlier. Tell students that the name of the career each role model represents will appear on the screen as they are speaking.

5. Tell students that, as they view the video, they should listen for reasons the scientist role models encourage others to become scientists.
6. View the video together.
7. View the video again; this time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the benefits of preparing for a career in science as featured in the video and to be ready to discuss these after viewing the video.
8. Have students tell about careers they think they might enjoy and why.

Video Follow-up:

1. Ask students to discuss or write about their video-related questions, comments, reactions and responses.
2. Invite students to record specific things they learned about the different science careers featured in the video and to reflect on their observations. (E.g., "I like knowing that a career in science can lead to many other career opportunities.")
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 meet over 50 women scientists talking about their careers in science.

In addition, have students research to discover other science careers not featured in the videos. After compiling a list of these science careers, have students each select one and prepare a brief report about that career. Reports should include career titles, career descriptions, typical salary ranges and employment prospects.

Related Questions to Explore:

Use the list of questions below to help students focus on the benefits of preparing for a science career.

- What do you think the first scientist in the video meant when she said that “science is knowledge?” Explain why you agree or disagree with this.
- The second speaker said that science gives us an “opportunity to explain life’s wonders.” What life wonders would you want to discover using science?
- What is meant by “perspective?” How might girls bring a different perspective to scientific efforts? Explain your answer.
- What is “economic empowerment?” How does a career in science provide economic empowerment?
- What is “educational empowerment?” How does a career in science provide educational empowerment?
- How might creativity play a part in medical and scientific breakthroughs?
- What are some ways a career in science help you develop confidence and persistence?
- What are some ways you could change your community by working in a science career?

List of Role Model Science Careers Featured in the Video:

Epidemiologist

Medical Writer

Microbiologist

Mars Rover Systems Engineer

Scientist Sequencing DNA

Immunologist

Organic Chemist

Molecular Biologist