

EVOLUTIONS After School Program

Career Exploration Guidelines



What in the world does a coprologist or speleologist do?

The following activity is meant to help you start thinking about your future and what you might want to do as a career. It was developed because:

- ✓ *There are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of careers you have never heard of;*
- ✓ *Over the course of your life, you will spend roughly 86,000 hours working. You have the next 5-8 years to figure out what you're going to spend these hours doing and get the training you'll need so you can be successful. It's worth spending a little time thinking about it.*
- ✓ *If you are lucky enough to love your job, you'll never work a day in your life!*

By the way, a coprologist studies feces and can also be called a scatologist. Speleologists study caves.
Now you know.

GUIDELINES

For this activity you will be exploring two (2) science careers that interest you, and generating a short fact sheet for each. These fact sheets will be compiled and posted on our website as a resource for teachers and other students. In a separate activity, you will turn one of these fact sheets into a museum panel that will be displayed in the Peabody Museum.

Getting Started:

- For this activity, chose two (2) careers to explore:
 - They do not have to come from the provided list;
 - They do need to be science-related (if you're unsure whether a career qualifies, please ask);
 - One (1) of them must be a geoscience (see the sample list of geoscience careers).
 - If you choose a career that you already know well, you won't get much out of this activity.
 - If you are a program veteran, you may not choose a career you've previously explored though you may explore a closely related career.

Note: Though your career choice should reflect your interests, challenge yourself to find out more about a career that you know little or nothing about - try to think a little "outside the box". If you already have a strong interest in a specific career path, consider doing some research to identify a specialty, branch or sub-discipline. Examples: If you are interested in illustration, consider exploring how digital special effects artists spend their day. If you are interested in physics, consider researching astro- or particle physics.

The Fact Sheets:

Page setup:

- Font: Times New Roman: 12pt maximum, 11pt minimum
- Page margins: 1.0" maximum, 0.8" minimum
- Line spacing: single spaced paragraphs with a double space between sections
- No longer than 4 pages

Grading:

- 33%: Formatting & layout (how well did you follow these guidelines)
- 33%: Content (quality of your research, information and writing)
- 33%: Interview (did you do it)

- *You will get extra credit (and extra knowledge!) for extra effort! Examples include interviewing additional people, researching additional careers, utilizing additional information sources, etc...*
- *All assignments must be emailed to jamie.alonzo@evoasp.org as a .doc or .rtf file by the deadline.*

THE SECTIONS:

For your fact sheet, use the following section headings in the same order they appear below. Each section should include the answers to the questions asked but do not need to include the questions themselves. Your answers should be complete sentences though you may also use bullets if appropriate. All of your answers should come from a reliable source – no improvisation! (with the exception of the "Interest" section)

- Place your name, school and grade in the top right corner of the front page;
- Pick an appropriate title and center it under your name, school and grade (12pt minimum, 18pt maximum).

Occupation Description:

- Provide a detailed (200 words or more) description of what people in this occupation do.

Required Education:

- What level of education or training is suggested for this occupation (e.g. license, certification, Associate's degree, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, PhD)?

Geographical Requirements:

- Do you need to live in a specific location or environment to do this type of work? Why or why not?

Interest:

- What do you like about this career?
- Why do you think you would be good at this occupation?

Interview

- For this section you will conduct a phone interview with a professor whose research is related to the major/career you have chosen;
- Choose one (1) of the universities from the "Required Coursework" section below and identify a professor who works in the department offering the major you are interested in;
- Start this section by listing the interviewee's name, title, university, department and research specialty. Also include the date the interview was conducted;
- The rest of this section should include answers to following interview questions:
 - *What skills do you need to succeed in this career?*
 - *What high school classes are particularly important in preparation for pursuing a college major in this occupation?"*
 - *Is there anything else (courses, extracurricular activities, volunteer positions, other experiences) that a student could do while in high school that might help in preparation for pursuing a college major in this occupation?"*
- You will be talking to an expert – this is a great opportunity to get any questions you might have answered;
- Do the interview section last so you can use it to fill-in any information you weren't able to find;
- **IMPORTANT:** *Do not conduct the interview until you've completed the interview workshop in class and be sure to have your interview cheat sheet in-hand when conducting the interview;*

Related Occupations:

- List at least 3 other careers that are related to this one and give 1-2 sentence description for each.

References:

- List 3 references (books, publications, magazines, computerized information, websites, etc...) used for this research. Refer to <http://www.easybib.com/> for information related to formatting your citations.
- Your interviewee should be included as one of your references.

Required Coursework:

- This section will be pages 3 & 4 of your fact sheet;
- At the top of page 3 repeat your name, school, grade and the title;
- Find two (2) colleges or universities that you might be interested in attending that offer a major leading to the career you chose;
- For each university, list its name, location (city & state), the major and all of the classes you are required to take at this college/university to receive the major related to your career. One university course list should be on page 3 and the other on page 4;
- Cutting and pasting the list of courses off of a university website is OK but beware that the list may need to be re-formatted.

Online resources to help you with your research:

- <http://www.bls.gov/k12/>
- <http://science.education.nih.gov/LifeWorks.nsf/CareerFinder.htm>
- <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>
- http://www.careerinfonet.org/select_occupation.asp?next=occ_rep&level=&optstatus=111111111&id=1&nodeid=2&soccode=&stfips=&jobfam=
- <http://www.acrnetwork.org/decision.htm>
- <http://www.earthscienceworld.org/careers/brochure.html> (list of geoscience careers)