

SOCIAL STUDIES  
Economics  
Grade 8  
Making Decisions About Careers

**Lesson Components:**

Benchmarks

E-1A-M5 giving examples of how skills and knowledge increase productivity and career opportunities

Key Concepts

Career opportunities, skills/knowledge

Lesson Duration

Two days

Purpose/Introduction

See individual lessons attached

Objectives

1. Cite examples of how skills/knowledge increase personal productivity and career opportunities, or what skills/knowledge would enhance particular career prospects. (E-1A-M5)
2. Discuss the importance of technical training to meet the needs of Louisiana business and industry (e.g., data processing, pipe fitting, welding). (E-1A-M5)

Prior Knowledge/Pre-requisites

A basic understanding of careers in various employment fields

A basic understanding of the Louisiana economy

An understanding of sources of information necessary for conducting research

Materials/Resources

Student notebooks, student textbooks, career reference materials, computers with access to the internet, student LEAP folders

## Teacher Preparation

The teacher should be familiar with the current employment situation in the United States and in Louisiana, with the various requirements necessary for most jobs, and with the future economic and employment outlook for the United States and Louisiana. The teacher should also be able to guide the students in their research into various careers.

## Body of the Lesson

See overview of the unit on “Employment and Careers” and individual lessons on this topic.

# LOUISIANA HISTORY

## EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS

### Objectives:

1. Students will be able to describe how the job market is changing and what it will be like in the next decade. (E-1A-M5)
2. Students will be able to identify the criteria necessary for success in obtaining employment in the future. (E-1A-M5)
3. Students will be able to describe the impact of improved technology and technical training on the job market in the United States and Louisiana. (E-1A-M5)
4. Students will be able to discern the criteria necessary in preparing for a specific career.

### Content Outline:

- The changing job market in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Requirements for success in employment—education, training, specialization, and new skills
- Major sources of employment in Louisiana today—agribusiness, manufacturing, aerospace and aviation, biotechnology, trade, forest-related industry, mining/drilling, seafood, and tourism
- The future of the job market in the United States and Louisiana

## Lesson 1:

Benchmarks: E-1A-M5

Lesson Outline:

- The changing job market in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Requirements for success in employment—education, training, specialization, and new skills
- Major sources of employment in Louisiana today—agribusiness, manufacturing, aerospace and aviation, biotechnology, trade, forest-related industry, mining/drilling, seafood, and tourism
- The future of the job market in the United States and Louisiana

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to describe how the job market is changing and what it will be like in the next decade. (E-1A-M5)
2. Students will be able to identify the criteria necessary for success in obtaining employment in the future. (E-1A-M5)
3. Students will be able to describe the impact of improved technology and technical training on the job market in the United States and Louisiana. (E-1A-M5)

Procedures:

Whole group discussion of the changing job market, requirements for employment success, major sources of employment in Louisiana today, and a look at the future job market

Identify the following: agribusiness, biotechnology, technical training, specialization, forest-related industry

Students will begin conducting research on a 21<sup>st</sup> century career, including the education level required, beginning salary, job skills necessary, and the duties encumbered in that career.

Copy review questions into LEAP folders

Materials:

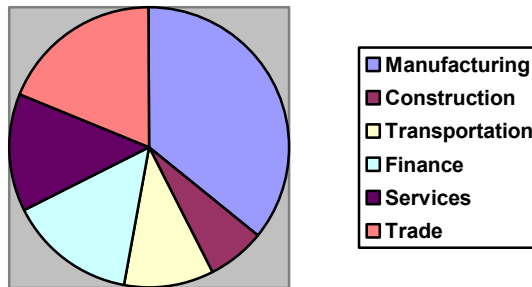
Student notebooks, student textbooks, career reference materials, computers with access to the internet, student LEAP folders

## Evaluation

Whole class review of today's lesson

Students will copy the following questions into their LEAP folders and answer them for homework:

1. Which of the following would **most likely** result in a higher salary for an employee at a major biotechnical corporation?
  - A. a high school diploma
  - B. a college degree
  - C. ten years experience on an assembly line
  - D. a high school dropout
2. The graph below represents the total income of major industries in the United States in 1999. According to the graph, which of the following areas most probably employs the most workers?



- A. Transportation
  - B. Services
  - C. Trade
  - D. Manufacturing
3. In which of the following job sources would a high school dropout be least likely to be employed?
    - A. construction
    - B. manufacturing
    - C. aerospace
    - D. mining/drilling

4. Circle one of the following jobs and answer these questions about this employment:

Medical doctor	Construction worker
Farmer	Pharmacist
Teacher	Car salesman

- A. What are the educational requirements to hold this job?
- B. List one advantage and one disadvantage of holding this job.
- C. What type of salary can the holder of this job expect?
- D. Describe the job security for this career.

## **Lesson 2:**

Benchmarks: E-1A-M5

Objectives:

Students will be able to discern the criteria necessary in preparing for a specific career.

Procedures:

Discuss answers to yesterday's LEAP review questions.

Students will continue their research on a 21<sup>st</sup> century career.

Materials:

Student notebooks, student textbooks, career reference materials, computers with access to the internet, student LEAP folders

Evaluation:

Students will prepare a career report that will be turned in within a week, to be shared with the class and graded.