

People at Work

There are many different types of jobs. Some, such as shop owner or sanitation worker, can be seen every day in the community. Other jobs, such as soldier or astronaut, may not be seen every day. No matter where workers are, their jobs shape the world around us.

Essential Questions

1. Why do people work?
2. How can workers affect the world beyond their community?
3. What can we learn from people in different jobs?
4. What does it take to be a good worker?
5. What are the benefits and challenges of different jobs?

Introduction to the Theme

Challenge students to list the jobs they can think of. Chart job titles on the board, and add to this chart throughout the unit. Explain to students that all jobs are important and have an impact on others. Use both obvious and less obvious examples from the list (for instance, it's obvious that police help protect a community, and less so that basketball players entertain audiences). Ask students to pick a job from the list and explain why it is important. Or ask students to explain what impact a job has on the community and world.

During this unit, introduce or discuss the class jobs students might have, such as line leader or pencil sharpener. Discuss the importance of each job and how it affects the classroom each day.

Informational Text

These *TIME for Kids* articles can be used to discuss the theme of people at work.

1. **“Hard at Work”** (April 26, 2019) Readers are introduced to five jobs.
2. **“Meet an Engineer”** (April 26, 2019) Yung Kopyrowski is a traffic engineer.
3. **“Under the Sea”** (February 3, 2017) Sylvia Earle works underwater to protect plants and animals.
4. **“Amazing Artists”** (December 28, 2018) Artists inspire us and help us see the world in a new way.
5. **“Helpers at School”** (October 14, 2016) There are many different jobs in a school.
6. **“A Day in the Life”** (October 20, 2017) Peggy Whitson is a scientist who works in space.

Literary Text

These fictional texts can be used to discuss the theme of people at work.

1. **Career Day**, by Anne Rockwell. Students in Mrs. Madoff’s class bring visitors in to talk about their jobs.
2. **Bea and Mr. Jones**, by Amy Schwartz. Beatrice and her father switch places for the day.
3. **Rosie Revere Engineer**, by Andrea Beaty. Rosie loves to build and hopes to be a great engineer some day.
4. **Officer Buckle and Gloria**, by Peggy Rathmann. Officer Buckle’s safety presentations become very popular when he brings his partner along.

Optional Extension

Have students create a poster advertising a job they’ve read about or have an interest in. They can draw and label a picture of someone performing that job and answer such questions “What would a worker have to do in this job? What does a worker need to be successful? Why is this a good job to have?”

After they’ve completed their posters, have students share them with the class or post them around the room for a gallery walk. You can then have students “apply” for a peer’s job by partnering up and telling their classmate why they would like the job and why they would be good at it.

Alternatively, you can make copies of advertisements specific to jobs in your community and have students write thank-you letters to the people who do those jobs. Bind the completed letters with the advertisement as a front cover and mail them to the company or organization featured in the advertisement(s).

Editor in Chief: Andrea Delbanco
Creative Director: Drew Willis
Curriculum Director: Stacy Bien
Associate Editor: Candace Dipsey
Contributing Writer: Rebecca Mordechai
Copy Editors: Mike DeCapite, Jordan Mamone