

# Chef Teacher Tips

If shows like *Master Chef Junior* and *Top Chef Junior* are any indication, many students have moved well beyond the "make your own PB&J sandwich" stage of cooking. Programs like these show a glamorous, competitive, and, yes, very stressful view of what it's like to be a chef. They also show the creativity and passion for food that it takes to succeed in this type of work.



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## DISCUSS

Ask students to describe the fanciest meal they have ever eaten. Then ask them to share what they know about the place where the food was prepared and the person(s) who prepared it.

## READ

Students can read text about chefs out loud as a class or silently on their own.

## CHALLENGE #1: If You Had This Career...

Several queries prompt students to get up close and personal with essential information about this career option. As they work through each question, remind students to relate this information to their own attributes, interests, and aspirations. Online research tools include:

- Using Google (or another approved Internet search engine) to make specific queries like “what kind of training does a chef need” or “how do family and consumer studies classes help prepare chefs.”
- Visiting career information websites like [www.getmyfuture.org](http://www.getmyfuture.org) or [www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org). Both of these websites are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- If available, tapping into your school’s career development software platform (such as Career Cruising) or your state’s career and college information system (such as [www.CFNC.org](http://www.CFNC.org)).

## CHALLENGE #2: FZ | FS ]

Students are asked to plan a creative, culturally-inclusive menu for a community event meant to celebrate major winter holidays. Their ideas should be creative, appropriate to the event, and easily adaptable for a large crowd. Extra bonus points if students can actually make one of their favorite dishes so share with the rest of the class!

## EXTEND THE DISCUSSION

Talking about chefs paves the way for further discussion about foods associated with different ethnic groups, nutrition, healthy eating strategies, and other food related topics.

## EXPLORE MORE STEAM CAREERS

Students can find out more about careers related to food, agriculture, and nature in the *Food and Natural Resources* title included in the **World of Work** series. The **World of Work** series features titles for each of the 16 nationally recognized career clusters. Go online to [www.brightfuturespress.com](http://www.brightfuturespress.com) to find out more about this series as well as 4 other interactive series that are part of the middle grade career exploration collection offered by Bright Futures Press. These titles are appropriate for students in grades 4 - 7 and can be used as part of a career exploratory curriculum, in CTE courses, as part of a multi-faceted career-focused research process, in the school media center, and in afterschool clubs and programs.