

# Heavy Equipment Operator

Were you one of those kids who liked to play with toy trucks and cars when you were little? Now that you are older, do you like to watch big trucks and bulldozers do their thing at construction sites? Can you see yourself behind the wheel of a backhoe, loader, dump truck, or crane? As our nation works hard to improve and repair aging infrastructure, this is expected to be a high-demand occupation for years to come.



*(Feel free to use the back of this sheet for longer answers)*

## What Do Heavy Equipment Operators Do?

Heavy equipment operators drive the big trucks and machines used to construct and maintain roads, bridges, airports, gas and oil pipelines, tunnels, buildings, and other structures. Most work on solid ground, but some work with cranes and other heavy equipment on skyscrapers, oil rigs, and other challenging locations. Heavy equipment operators must have a high school diploma and special training to qualify for the job. Apprenticeship programs--where new workers get supervised, on-the-job experience--are how many heavy equipment operators prepare for the job. They must obtain special driver's licenses, and depending on the laws of the state where they work, may need to get special certification. A special perk of the job is seeing the results of their work take form in new homes and businesses, roadways, bridges, and other impressive structures.

## CHALLENGE #1: Go online to find out...

What kind of skills you would need to do this job?

What would a typical day on the job be like?

What kinds of places could you work in?

How would you make a difference in the world?

Why would (or wouldn't) you like doing a job like this?

## CHALLENGE #2: *Career Think Tank*



A school near the site of your latest construction project invited you to talk to their students about what it is like to be a heavy equipment operator. To make the experience fun for the students, you decide to make up a game to help them learn which heavy equipment machines do what.

Go online to find the names, images, and descriptions of common types of construction heavy equipment. Be sure to include backhoe, bulldozer, crane, and more.

Use this information and your imagination to create a matching game.