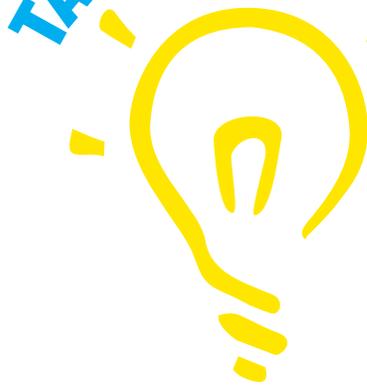


TAKE THE



CAREER

IDEAS *Challenge*

...with your Middle Grade students!

The middle grades (4–7) are prime time for exploring careers. They are also an age-appropriate time for cultivating problem-solving skills. The **Career Ideas Challenge** lets students do both – explore careers within the context of solving real world problems.

Use these 9 activities in career exploratory classes, CTE courses, in the library, as part of a literacy program, or to build 21st century skills in core classes.

**Military
Serviceperson
Chef
Paralegal**

Cartographer

Perkins V and Title 1- friendly!



Military Serviceperson

Air Force. Army. Coast Guard. Marines. Navy. These are the five branches of the United States military. Each branch keeps the peace in different ways. The Air Force provides air and space power. The Army provides land power. The Coast Guard protects U.S. waterways. The Marines are a rapid-response force. When a conflict begins, Marines are often the first "boots on the ground." The Navy's job is to secure and protect the oceans around the world. Land, air or, sea? In the trenches or behind a desk? Where would you like to serve?

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



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What do military servicepeople do

The military offers an incredible range of opportunities for both men and women. In fact, there are hundreds of different military jobs. Of course, there are the jobs you'd most expect--the sailors, soldiers, and pilots working the front lines of the nation's defense. But the military also offers opportunities for lawyers, doctors, scientists, cybersecurity analysts, and many other types of support people. Military careers are divided into two main categories: enlisted and officer. Enlisted personnel make up about 82 percent of the Armed Forces. Their job is to carry out military operations. Officers make up the remaining 18 percent. Their job is to manage operations and the enlisted ranks. You can enlist in the military with just a high school diploma. Officers must have a college degree. Whichever route you may choose, seek out solid advice and be look for opportunities best suited to your skills, interests, and ambitions for the future.

CHALLENGE #1: online research

If you had this career...

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference?

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

CHALLENGE #2: Think Tank

There are five branches of the military. Each one plays an important role in keeping peace at home and abroad. How do you know which one is right for you?

Like any big decision, you start with knowledge. Go online to explore the branch that you find most interesting. Is it Air Force or Army? Coast Guard? Or is the Marines or, perhaps, the Navy.

Visit websites like <https://careersinthemilitary.com> and <https://www.todaysmilitary.com>. Find facts about exciting opportunities in the branch you like most. Make a recruitment poster to show other people why you think the branch you choose is the best one.

Chef

Where is your favorite fancy place to eat? Does the person who fixes food at that place wear a tall white hat? That might mean a chef makes the delicious food served there. Chefs are professional cooks. Wherever really good food is found, you'll find chefs. They work in restaurants, on cruise ships, aboard private jets, and at resorts. They also work in specialty food stores, retirement communities, schools, hospitals, and catering companies.



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

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One thing that all chefs have in common is food. They love eating it. They love preparing it. They even love talking about it! Chefs take pride in preparing meals that people often pay big bucks to enjoy. A chef's job is a mix of cooking skill, creative talent, and lots of hard work. Can you even imagine what it would be like to prepare fancy food all night long in a busy restaurant? Add lots of energy to the job requirements!

One way to find out if you are a foodie is to take a culinary arts class in school. There you'll learn the basics of how to cook and get a taste of what's like to prepare some of your favorite foods. Chefs prepare for their careers by cooking and with special training at community colleges, technical schools, or culinary arts schools.

CHALLENGE #1: *If you had this career...*

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference

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

CHALLENGE #2: *Think Tank*

Your community is hosting a party to celebrate the different ways that people celebrate the winter holidays. It's Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, Las Posadas, and the Chinese New Year all rolled into one rollicking event!

You've been selected to be head chef. Your job is to come up with a menu that represents many different cultures. What kind of foods can you serve to give guests a taste of winter joy?

Plan a menu and include descriptions of which winter holiday the dish is used to celebrate.



Paralegal

Legal legwork is one of the best ways to describe what paralegals do. They support lawyers with behind-the-scenes work and research to prepare court cases and legal documents.

Paralegals need either an associate's degree in paralegal studies or a bachelor's degree with paralegal certification to prepare for this career. They work for state and federal governments, large corporations, and private legal firms.



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

What do Paralegals do

Paralegals who work for trial lawyers help attorneys during court cases. They organize case files, do legal research, write legal briefs, and interview clients and witnesses. One thing that they do not do is provide legal advice or present cases in court. Only licensed attorneys can do those things.

Lawyers specialize in different types of law such as real estate, corporate, or immigration. Paralegals support lawyers' efforts by drafting contracts, real estate closings, wills, and other legal documents. A lot of work goes into preparing documents like these. For instance, before a family law attorney can draw up a child custody agreement in a divorce case, a paralegal must research many aspects of the family's situation. All the facts must be in place before a sound legal decision can be made.

CHALLENGE #1: *If you had this career...*

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference

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

CHALLENGE #2: *Think Tank*



A big part of a paralegal's job is getting the facts straight. Every detail in a legal document must be true and accurate.

So imagine that the attorney you are working for is building a case to defend children's right to recess in elementary school. Sure, kids want to play, but why (or why not) is giving children regular breaks important for learning?

See what kinds of facts you can find about the benefits of exercise, fresh air, and free time to children's well-being.

Cartographer

The earliest maps date back to the 5th century BCE. These maps show the night skies rather than the Earth. It was the ancient Greeks who created the first maps on paper. Later, modern tools like the compass, telescope, and printing press made maps more accurate and accessible. Today's maps are a result of technologies that early mapmakers would have never imagined possible. Smart phones now make it possible for anyone to find their way to any place on Earth. To say that maps have come a long way is an understatement!

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



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What do Cartographers do

Cartographers are mapmakers. They collect, measure, and interpret geographic information in order to create and update maps and charts for computer apps, education, and other purposes. Modern cartography is a mixture of art, science, and technology. Cartographers use high-tech tools like satellites, survey drones, and lasers to do their jobs. Global positioning systems make it possible to record extremely precise details about any location. They work for government agencies, architectural and engineering firms, and technology companies.

Companies like Google employ thousands of cartographers to make digital maps. Most cartographers need a bachelor's degree in a subject like cartography, geography, geomatics, or surveying.

CHALLENGE #1: *If you had this career...*

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference

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

CHALLENGE #2: *Think Tank*



It's time to put your mapmaking skills to the test. On your way home from school, take special note about the route. Record the streets you pass, the turns you make and any significant details that would help you find your way again.

When you arrive home, sketch out a map showing how to get from your school to your house.

Then go online to Google maps and compare your route with the route Google recommends.