

# Nurse



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Help wanted: nurses! Nurses play a vital role in the health care system and there will continue to be a big demand for new nurses in the coming years. Nurses are often the first health professional that patients encounter and perform a wide variety of health care functions. Nurses are needed to fill positions in hospitals, clinics, physician's offices, nursing homes, and schools.

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

## What Do Nurses Do?

There are several different levels of nursing with different educational requirements and responsibilities for each level. Licensed practical nurses, or LPNs, typically have one year of training and provide basic medical care in home health care, hospitals, clinics and nursing homes. Registered nurses, or RNs, need at least an associate's degree (and often a bachelor's degree) and work closely with physicians to provide direct care to patients. There are also growing opportunities for experienced nurses with advanced training to work as nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, and nurse midwives. These nurses perform many of the same duties as a doctor under the supervision of a physician. Future nurses often get a headstart with their training by participating in high school health academies and other types of health science programs.

## 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*



They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It is almost flu season, so as the school nurse, you want to prevent an outbreak among your students.

Go online and talk to any health professionals you may know to find out the best strategies for preventing the flu. Gather as many specific tips as you can and mention any local resources that you find.

Organize your findings into either a poster or Powerpoint presentation to educate students about how to keep the flu bug away from your school.