Lesson Plan: Exploring Career Clusters with CareerViewXR

Grade Level: 6th-12th

Duration: 60 minutes

Objective:
- Students will understand the concept of career clusters and how they are organized.
- Students will explore different career clusters through CareerViewXR to learn about various careers within each cluster.
- Students will identify their interests and match them to relevant career clusters.
- Students will reflect on potential career pathways and set goals for their future.

Materials Needed:
- VR headsets (compatible with CareerViewXR)
- Computers/tablets (for pre- and post-activity)
- Whiteboard and markers
- CareerViewXR platform access
- Handouts with descriptions of the 14 Career Clusters
- Reflection sheet (included with lesson plan)

Lesson Outline

Introduction (10 min)

1. Start with a discussion on careers:
- Ask students what career fields they are interested in and what kinds of jobs they are familiar with.
- Introduce the concept of career clusters: Groups of occupations that share similar skills and interests.

2. Explain the 14 Career Clusters:
- **Advanced Manufacturing:** Careers such as engineering, research and development, automation and artificial intelligence, equipment maintenance, safety protocols, and quality control. (e.g., machinists, industrial engineers, quality control specialists).
- **Agriculture:** Careers related to producing, processing, marketing, and providing services in agriculture, food, and natural resources (e.g., farmers, environmental scientists,).
- **Arts, Entertainment & Design:** Careers include creative roles in visual and performing arts, film, journalism, fashion, interior design, and creative technologies. (e.g., graphic designers, journalists, film directors).
- **Construction:** Occupations that involve designing, planning, building, and maintaining infrastructure (e.g., architects, construction workers, civil engineers).

2. Explain the 14 Career Clusters (CONT.):
- **Digital Technology:** Careers related to developing digital systems for communication and data storage using critical technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), data analytics, and cybersecurity. (e.g., software developers, network administrators, data analysts).
- **Education:** Careers include teaching, instructional design, counseling services, community engagement, learner support, and educator training. (e.g., teachers, school counselors, educational administrators).
- **Energy & Natural Resources:** Careers include renewable fuel production, power generation and energy conversion, utilities, environmental preservation, ecological research, and resource extraction. (e.g., conservation and land management, environmental protection).
- **Financial Services:** Careers in managing and advising financial transactions, including banking, lending, corporate finance, debt management, accounting, insurance, and real estate. (e.g., bankers, financial analysts, insurance agents).
- **Healthcare & Human Services:** Occupations includes technical, mental, and therapeutic services and personal care, supported by medical and social sciences. (e.g., doctors, nurses, medical researchers).
- **Hospitality, Events & Tourism:** Careers include a broad range of services and experiences related to food and beverage, lodging, travel, events, and conferences. (e.g., chefs, event planners, hotel managers).
- **Management & Entrepreneurship:** Occupations in business administration, operations optimization, strategic planning, workforce management, and entrepreneurship. (e.g., managers, accountants, business analysts).
- **Marketing & Sales:** Occupations that focus on promoting products, understanding consumer needs, engaging with communities, and driving sales. (e.g., marketing specialists, sales representatives, customer service managers).
- **Public Service & Safety:** Careers include roles in local, state, and federal government; legal and justice systems; security; and military operations. (e.g., politicians, city planners, law enforcement officers).
- **Supply Chain & Transportation:** Occupations involved in the transfer, coordination, and management of goods from production to consumption, ensuring efficient movement across various modes of transportation including air, ground, and water, as well as maintenance of the respective transport modes. (e.g., truck drivers, logistics coordinators, pilots).

3. Introduce CareerViewXR:
- Briefly explain how CareerViewXR allows them to experience careers in a virtual reality setting. Highlight that they will be able to explore different career clusters and interact with various careers to gain insights.

Activity 1: Virtual Exploration (25 minutes)

Note: It would be helpful to have a helper at each station to help the students use the VR headset. Or walk them through finding and viewing a video on the headset as a group.

1. Set up VR stations:
- Assign students to VR headsets in pairs or small groups.
- Have each group explore a designated career cluster within CareerViewXR. Depending on the available time and equipment, they can explore one or two clusters.

2. Explore Key Careers in Career Clusters:
- While in VR, students will be able to see real-world environments and interact with professionals in various career fields. Encourage them to take notes on the careers they find most interesting and any questions they might have.

3. Encourage Reflection:
- As they explore, have students reflect on the types of careers that excite them or seem aligned with their interests and strengths. Ask them to consider what skills or education might be necessary for these careers.

Activity 2: Career Cluster Reflection (15 minutes)

1. Group Discussion (5 minutes):
- After completing the VR exploration, gather the students and ask them to share their experiences.
- Ask each group to briefly present one or two careers they found particularly interesting, along with what they learned about the skills and education required.

2. Career Cluster Matching (10 minutes):
- Provide each student with a handout that lists the 16 career clusters.
- Have students mark the career clusters that resonate most with their interests. Then, ask them to write down a few specific careers they discovered in VR that they might want to explore further.

Activity 3: Goal Setting and Next Steps (10 minutes)

1. Reflection on Interests and Goals:
- Ask students to think about their own interests and match them to a career cluster. They will write down a career goal and identify steps they can take to explore that career path further (e.g., internships, courses, volunteering). .

2. Share and Discuss:
- Have students pair up to share their career clusters and goals with each other. Encourage them to discuss the skills and steps necessary to reach their goals.

Assessment:

1. Student Reflection Sheet:
- At the end of the lesson, ask students to complete a short reflection sheet where they:
    - List the career cluster(s) they are most interested in.
    - Write down one career they would like to learn more about.
    - Set a short-term or long-term goal for exploring that career (e.g., research educational requirements, job shadow, attend a related club or event).
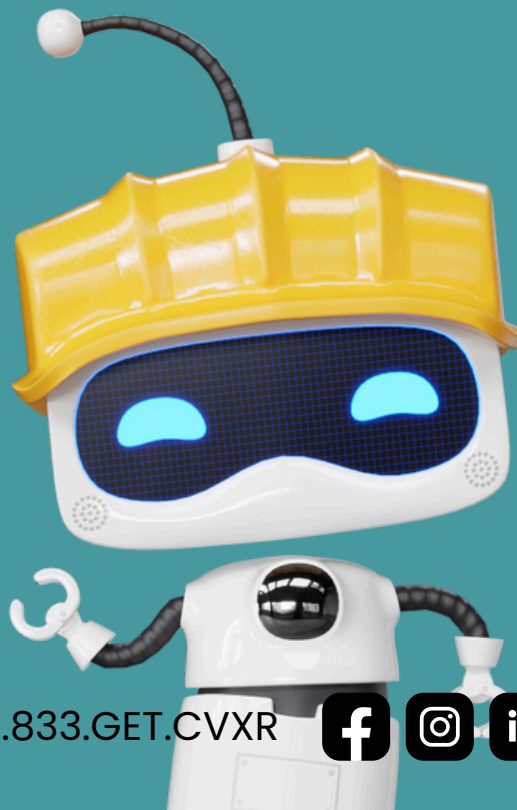
2. Class Participation:
- Assess students based on their engagement during the VR activity and the group discussion. Did they actively participate and reflect on their experience?

Extension Activity:

- **Student Reflection Sheet:** As a follow-up, provide students with information about local career shadowing or internship programs within the clusters they showed interest in.
- **Class Participation:** Arrange for professionals from different career clusters to speak
- with students about their jobs, education, and career paths.

Thanks for trying our lesson plan!

Career Cluster Reflection Sheet

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Career Cluster(s) of Interest
After exploring different career clusters in CareerViewXR, which cluster(s) do you find most interesting? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Advanced Manufacturing
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Arts, Entertainment & Design
- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Digital Technology
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Energy & Natural Resources
- ☐ Financial Services
- ☐ Healthcare & Human Services
- ☐ Hospitality, Events & Tourism
- ☐ Management & Entrepreneurship
- ☐ Marketing & Sales
- ☐ Public Service & Safety
- ☐ Supply Chain & Transportation

2. Specific Careers You Found Interesting
From the career clusters you explored in CareerViewXR, list one or two specific careers that caught your attention. Why did these careers stand out to you?

Career #1 _____

Reason it Interested you: _____

_____

Career #2 _____

Reason it Interested you: _____

_____

3. Skills and Education
For the careers you're interested in, think about the skills and education required. What skills do you think are necessary for these careers? What kind of education or training might be needed?

Skills needed: _____

_____

_____

Education needed: _____

_____

_____

4. My Career Goals
Based on your interests and what you've learned, set at least one short-term or long term goal related to your career exploration. This goal could be researching a career more, seeking a mentor, or gaining skills.

My goal is: _____

_____

Steps I can take to achieve this goal: _____

_____

_____

_____

5. Career Cluster Reflection
Do you feel more informed about different careers after this lesson? What surprised you most about the careers in the clusters you explored?

_____

_____

_____

6. Next Steps for Career Exploration
What's the next step you want to take to learn more about the careers you're interested in? (Examples: research educational requirements, job shadowing, attend a related club or event, etc.)

_____

_____

_____