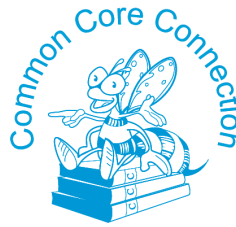


Lesson Plan



Note: This activity adapted from <http://www.lessonplanet.com>.

Time Needed:

2 class period

Materials (for each student or group of students):

- *Natural Inquirer* Scientist & Engineer Cards
- Blank paper or notebook
- Writing utensil

A job doesn't have to be boring. In fact, for many scientists, they found their job by doing things they enjoyed doing as kids. In this lesson plan, students learn about what led scientists to their careers, then think about activities they like that could apply to science careers.

Methods:

Prep

Order a free set of *Natural Inquirer* Scientist and Engineer Cards (<http://www.naturalinquirer.org/Scientist-Card-Ordering-Page-v-155.html>) or print out a set of cards from the *Natural Inquirer* website.

Day One

Hand out at least one card to each student. Direct students to read the entire card. Once they are finished, redirect student attention to the back of the card. Specifically, ask students to re-read the section titled "When did you know you wanted to be a scientist/engineer?"

Take a poll of the class, did the scientist or engineer on their card know when they were a kid? Or when they were in high school? Or when they were in college?

For many scientists and engineers, they note that they knew they wanted to become a scientist or engineer when they learned they could continue doing the fun things they enjoyed as a kid.

Provide students blank paper or a notebook and writing utensil. With the remaining time in class, ask students to begin brainstorming things they enjoy doing.

More specifically, students should be brainstorming things they enjoy that could finish this sentence, "I could be happy spending all day doing..."

Day Two

Ask students to circle three of the items on their list of brainstormed activities. Using those three activities, direct students to brainstorm the skills that those three activities provide.

Make the cards available for all students to read, either in hard copy or on the Internet. Ask students to review the cards to discover which science and engineering careers most closely match their interests as brainstormed. Also ask students to determine which science and engineering careers most align with the skills students have gained from those interests and activities.

Lastly, have students pick two or three careers which they believe may be best aligned to their interests and skills. Have students write a short essay or present to their peers.