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|  | **First Steps: Understanding the World of Work through Career Technical Education** is a standard-based, CTE focused, career development curriculum for students in grades 7-8. The First Steps logo indicates instructional resources are aligned to the [First Steps Standards](https://cte.idaho.gov/Resource_Catalog/Program_Areas/Middle_School/TheIdahoMiddleSchoolCTEInitiative.pdf) and IDCTE approved! |

**First Steps Standard(s):** Domain3. Future Planning (How do I get there?) 1. Efficiency and Productivity (How do I turn an interest into a plan?) A. Having identified a career interest and program of study, research institutions offering the program according to personal preferences. B. Research helpful high school courses and experiences.

**Career Activity Curriculum Topic:** How Do I Get There?

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will be able to (SWBAT):

1. Complete adequate research to find educational institutions that suit their personal preferences (major, lifestyle, living conditions, opportunity, etc.).
2. Select and describe three colleges (at least one in Idaho) that offer the degree/certification that they want to pursue.

**Activity Summary:** This lesson will help students develop a better understanding of the colleges and universities that offer the certificate they are interested in. They will understand the high school courses they need to take in order to achieve that career plan. Students will complete research for both: university/colleges and high school coursework.

**Estimated Time:** One 45-minute class period

**Suggest Grade Level:** 8th Grade

**Materials Needed:**

* Teacher Materials: Computer/projector, slide deck, handout (Assignment Sheet (1 per student))
* Student Materials: Pen/pencil, assignment sheet, device with web access for research

**Academic Vocabulary:**

* **Job** – “a temporary step you take to build your career; provides a paycheck and experience”
* **Career** – “a lifelong journey that builds on your skills, knowledge, and experience”
* **Occupation** – “a broad term that encompasses the employment sector or category of jobs in which you work”

**\*\***Definitions sourced from: [Career Trend](https://careertrend.com/info-8226168-difference-between-job-occupation-career.html)

**Introduction:**

* Choosing a career can be a daunting task for anyone. The good news is that you don’t have to know exactly what you will do or be after high school. However, it is important to start the exploration process so you are familiar with all of their options, and the steps that must be taken to get there. Starting this process now will give you an idea of the high school courses to take in the coming years, to kickstart your career-planning process.

**Learning Activities/Procedures:** Use the slide deck.

1. Go through the slide deck with students.
2. Before you get into the content, have students complete the “Do Now,” give them a few minutes to think and record their thoughts.
3. Dive deep into “career goal” and “career path” – ensure that students are thinking about ONE career they want to advance and continue to grow in long term.
4. If desired, use the quote slide (5) to do a quick share-out, parking lot, etc.
5. Go through the assignment directions for students to research institutions offering the degree/certification that they are pursuing.

**Directions**:

Access website(s): [Looking at Schools](https://careerinfo.nextsteps.idaho.gov/learning-plan/11th-grade/?step=7), [Idaho Colleges](https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/colleges)

Use varying information to conduct your search

Locate three colleges that offer your degree (One must be based in Idaho)

Fill in the table with the information you found

1. Go through the assignment directions for students to research helpful high school courses and work activities of the career/degree/certificate they desire.

Directions:

Access website: [Career Browser](https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/browse-careers)

Go to your Career that you previously selected

Click on “Education & Training”

The right side of the screen will display a list of **possible** high school   
classes for your degree

It also has Idaho Colleges that offer that degree

Record the information in the table with the electives that are listed for your career

Click on “Workforce Information”

Scroll down to “Work Activities” and record the information for your career

1. Answer any questions that might come up while students are working, encourage them to ask questions and ensure them that this plan is not “set in stone”
2. When they have completed the research, have students complete the “Short Reflection” at the end of the assignment sheet.

**Accommodations/Adaptations/Extensions:**

**Accommodation:** Students only research 1-2 schools instead of three; students only research Idaho-based schools; Work with a positive peer/partner; cross out/eliminate parts of the research charts to focus on main ideas

**Adaptation:** Virtual: Students may participate in discussion boards or virtual chat w/ Zoom or Teams; assignment will be completed in the virtual classroom

**Extension:** Students will be asked to research their high school and see what electives are offered at their school, they will determine which courses from their career path they can take. Students could complete this activity [What's My Next Move?](https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/TEN_26_12_Att.pdf) For further exploration of the career they desire.

**Evaluation:** Students will submit the completed assignment sheet with both charts filled out for their desired career and education/job path.

**Closing:** There are many resources available to you that could assist in researching and exploring different careers that interest you. It’s important to understand that as an 8th grader, you do not necessarily need to know your exact career after high school, and your goal now, may change. Regardless, it is important to familiarize yourself with all the options available and the steps required to get there including education, background, interests, career plans, etc.

**Resources/Reference**

* [Browse Careers - Next Steps Idaho](https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/browse-careers)