



BLUEPRINT BUILDER

Blueprint Builder Learning Activity Grades 11/12

Big Ideas

- ✓ Career and education paths require ongoing exploration, planning, evaluation and adaptation.
- ✓ Being in the world and walking in the world are supported, broadened, and deepened through community involvement and the social experience of building personal networks.

Content

Personal Development

- ✓ Awareness that self-assessment and preparation are needed to achieve post-graduation goals and plans.

Career Life Plan

- ✓ Multiple ways to gather career information.
- ✓ Critical assessment and interpretation of career-related information, including labour market trends.
- ✓ Awareness that all careers are multifaceted and have a variety of choices and opportunities.

Curricular Competency

- ✓ Cultivate and engage with personal networks as a post-graduation resource.
- ✓ Document the ways of knowing, research, and decision-making processes that help identify personal career opportunities and inform choices.
- ✓ Opportunities and their role in career, education and life planning.

Core Competency

- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Critical Thinking
- ✓ Personal and Social

Key Questions

1. What career resources did you add to Blueprint Builder to support your career journey?
2. Did the vision for your own career journey change after you networked with friends and family?
3. What are some of the work/life elements (career shopping list) that are meaningful to you that will help guide your decisions now and in the future?
4. Did your assessment of career options against your personalized list of work/life elements (career shopping list) allow you to identify and evaluate careers best suited to you?
5. What options did you consider and decide to explore further through a job or work experience?

Resources to Support this Learning Activity

- ✓ [Blueprint Builder Teacher's Guide](#)
- ✓ Student Learning Activity Instructions (Part B and C)
- ✓ Handouts 1 and 2 (found within this document on pages 7 and 20)

Other requirements: computer, tablet, smartphone, or paper/pen

Teaching Tip(s):

- Review the Teacher’s Guide and the student learning activity. Note that the homework assignment (Part A) should be completed prior to introducing Blueprint Builder.
- Review WorkBC’s Blueprint Builder Introduction.
- Review the tasks in Handout 1: Career Pathway Reality Check, so you know what to expect.
- The tutorial video on the [Blueprint Builder](#) homepage is a great way to introduce this activity.
- The lessons recommend that students complete the Career Compass quizzes. The second part to [WorkBC’s Career Exploration Tool, Blueprint Builder](#) provides details on the Career Compass resource. You’ll also find a [student activity for Career Compass](#) you can use with your students.

Suggested Support Resource: Download a free PDF of the book that was used as the foundational resource for this learning activity: [Career Crafting the Decade after High School: Professional's Guide](#).

Estimated Time: Two-three hours (**Note:** in advance of this learning activity there is a homework assignment that will take students a couple of days to complete.)

Thinking about Teaching

In Career Life Connections, students will continue to identify career and education paths through exploration, planning and evaluation. Students can adapt the career plans that they set in motion in grade 9.

This learning activity is designed to help students strengthen their career exploration and planning competencies, and learn how to create their own personalized Blueprint to support their career journey.

The key to this learning activity is for students to recognize that a career path is not a straight line, but instead, a series of interrelated actions that form one's lifelong career pathway.

The personalized Blueprint record can be used as students adapt and revise their career and education plans to respond to new situations.

Proposed Scope and Sequence

There are three parts to this learning activity, with each part building on the other.

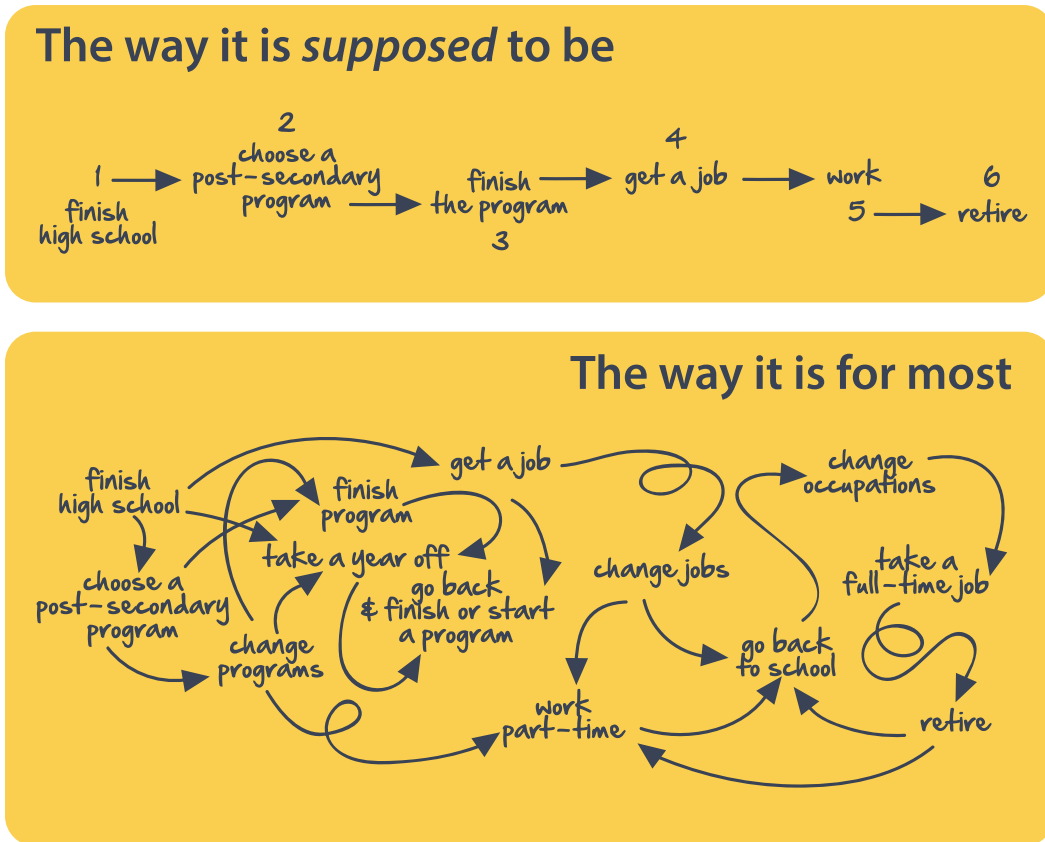
1. Students complete homework – Awareness of Career Pathways.
2. Students register for Blueprint Builder.
3. Students create a record of useful resources to support career exploration and planning.

Teacher Instructions

Part A: Homework Assignment

The homework assignment will help students build their understanding and learn about career pathways. The image below shows two career pathways that depict the Career Myth.

The Career Myth



The first graphic, "The way it is *supposed* to be," shows a linear path. Current career development thinking recognizes that the straight path—graduate, do some post-secondary learning, work, and then retire—is outmoded. Acknowledging this may reduce the stress that many youth experience as they try to create a clear, linear pathway. Recent research indicates that the pressure of making the one and only right choice is impeding the positive progress of students into the early years of their work/life journey.

The second graphic presents a multi-line path that is more typical of today's career journeys, and one that most youth will likely follow. If they learn to embrace uncertainty, build on their experiences, and choose pathways that match their desires, they will likely have a much richer career planning experience.

The homework assignment is aimed at connecting youth with the experience of older people, expanding their expectations for their personal career journey.

Ask students to use Handout 1: Career Path Reality Check to complete the assignment.

Note: The teacher can discuss the results of the interview(s) after students have learned how to create a Blueprint Builder account (Part C of the learning activity).

Assessment Ideas

Self-Assessment

Ask students to pair and share the responses to their reflection questions and provide evidence of the statements:

- ✓ I identified the differences and similarities of the career paths of the three people I interviewed:
 - i. a person between the age of 30 and 40
 - ii. a person between the age of 40 and 50
 - iii. a person over 60
- ✓ I determined which of the two career path diagrams best represents the career journeys of each of the people I interviewed.
- ✓ I reflected on the vision for my own career path and identified some actions I might take based on what I learned from my interviews.

Teacher Assessment

- ✓ Collect responses as an Exit Slip.

Handout 1: Career Path Reality Check

Homework Assignment

A. What does a career path look like?

- a. Ask several people you know if they would agree to a short interview about their career journey. See if you can find someone to interview in each of the following categories:
 - i. a person between the age of 30 and 40
 - ii. a person between the age of 40 and 50
 - iii. a person over 60

- b. Ask your interviewees the following questions and record their answers:
 - i. Can you describe your career journey and what led to the work you do now?
 - ii. What were the main influences that led to your choices?
 1. To go to college or university?
 2. To work at a certain job?
 3. To change jobs?
 - iii. Has your career path been straight to this point in your life (point A to point B)? For example, have you worked for the same employer for many years, or did you go straight to work from high school? If so, what influenced that linear pathway?
 - iv. Or has your career path had multiple forks in the road where you had to make a decision and change direction? What kinds of things—people, events, realizations—contributed to these moments?
 - v. Is there anything you would change about the way your career has progressed? Why or why not?

- c. There may be more questions you would like to ask, so add those and record the answer.

Homework Assignment

B. Reflection questions

- ✓ Your teacher assigned some homework to talk with friends and family in your network and learn about their career paths. What did you find out? Was it a straight path? Were there many stops and starts? Were there changes in direction?
- ✓ Write a short paragraph that describes the career journey for each person below:
 - i. a person between the age of 30 and 40
 - ii. a person between the age of 40 and 50
 - iii. a person over 60
- ✓ Take a look at the diagram that your teacher showed you. For each of your friends or family members, which career journey diagram best represents their career path?
- ✓ Did you have any preconceived notion of what a career path should look like? Does this activity make you realize something new about a career path?

Teacher Instructions

Part B: How to register on Blueprint Builder

1. Ask students to reflect on the interview homework assignment and if anyone they interviewed could use some career planning advice. If so, they are about to learn about a tool that they can share with people in their network.
2. Introduce the Blueprint Builder resource to them. Use the tutorial video on Blueprint Builder, or demonstrate the various features of the Blueprint Builder via a live demo.
3. Tell students Blueprint Builder is a resource they can use now and after they leave high school, to help them with career planning.
4. Some students may already have a Blueprint Builder account. If so, the introduction will be a refresher for them.
5. If students do not have a Blueprint Builder account, have them follow the Student Instructions, starting with Step One.
6. Review the instructions, and allow students ten to fifteen minutes to create an account and orient themselves to Blueprint Builder.

Assessment Ideas

Self-Assessment

Ask students to pair and share the responses to their reflection questions, and provide evidence of the statements:

- ✓ I created a Blueprint Builder profile and saved the login information for future use.
- ✓ I added resources to Blueprint Builder to support my career journey now and into the future.
- ✓ I included resources from the following sections
 - a. **Career Exploration Resources**
 - b. **Education & Funding Resources**
 - c. **Job Search Resources**
- ✓ I shared my favourite resources that I added to my personalized Blueprint with my parent(s), guardian, or career mentor.

Teacher Assessment

- ✓ Collect responses as an Exit Slip.

Student Instructions: Part B

How to register on Blueprint Builder

Blueprint Builder is a career planning tool that helps you find the resources you need. It includes career, education and job search resources—all in one place.

Your personalized Blueprint will keep track of your research, and link you to all sorts of career, education and funding resources. It's like a personal account that will hold all your research and valuable career planning information. You can save the resources you like, and add notes to help you at a later date.

To fully utilize all the great resources available, you need to create an account. To discover what's available, complete Step One through Step Five below.

Step One: Create an account

- Go to <https://www.workbc.ca/blueprintbuilder>
- Choose "Register" to create a profile account and personalize your Blueprint.
- To create your Profile, complete the form and select all the details that apply to you.
- Enter your email address, and select a password (at least **six characters long**, with at least **one upper-case letter** and **one number**). Read and agree to the Blueprint Privacy Policy, and choose "Create Profile."

Step Two: Respond to the activation email

- If you don't have an email account, ask your teacher to help you set one up.
- You'll receive an activation email containing a link—just select the link to activate your account.
- Then log in using your email address and password.

Step Three: Once you're logged in

- Once you're logged in, you'll be returned to the Blueprint Builder homepage. Every time you log in, this is the page where you'll begin.
- You can select "Update profile" at any time to view and update your profile.
- Take a look at what is available for you to explore on the homepage.

Step Four: Take a quick tour of what is available

- From the home page, select “Build your Blueprint”. Here you can view Career Exploration Resources, Education & Funding Resources and Job Search Resources categories.
- You’ll also see progress bars that highlight your progress in building your Blueprint.
- Once you’ve selected one of the three categories, view the variety of resources available in that group. Since you’ve already created an account, the resources will be customized to match your profile settings, indicated with a Matches Profile label.
- You can easily select the category that interests you and browse through the resources.
- You’ll see that Blueprint Builder draws your attention to certain key resources. These are indicated with a featured flag. Once you add them to your Blueprint, data from these specific resources are pulled into your Blueprint profile. An example of a featured resource is Career Compass.
- You can choose to view all resources on Blueprint Builder with the A-Z resource search.
- You can also add notes about the resources to refer to later from the View your Blueprint page, if you’ve created an account.

Now that you have an account, you can see the career resources that match your personal profile, and add others to your personal Blueprint for future use and viewing.

Use Blueprint Builder to explore the wide variety of career planning resources that can help you plan and research your career. Build your personalized Blueprint and get started on finding career success!

Step Five: Build your own Blueprint

- Browse through each of the resource category tabs. You can easily move between tabs on the resource: **Career Exploration Resources**; **Education & Funding Resources**; and **Job Search Resources** at any time. In this exercise, you will add useful resources from each category to your Blueprint.
- Try this out:
 - Select **Career Exploration Resources**.
 - Note that the Career Exploration Resources that match your profile are placed at the top of the list, with the Matches Profile label.
 - Scroll through all the resources and add those that interest you.
 - Choose the resource tile to view an overview or to go directly to the site.
 - You can add resources or remove them from your personalized Blueprint. Try adding and removing one now.
 - Add Career Compass and Career Trek to your personalized Blueprint by choosing **Save to your Blueprint**.

- Try this out:
 - Select **Education & Funding Resources**.
 - Note that the Education & Funding Resources that match your profile are placed at the top of the list.
 - Scroll through the links to explore different programs and post-secondary institutions.
 - Add EducationPlannerBC to your Blueprint by clicking **Save to your Blueprint**.

- Try this out:
 - Select **Job Search Resources**.
 - Note that the Job Search resources that match your profile are placed at the top of the list.
 - Scroll through all the resources and add the ones that interest you.
 - Add WorkBC Job Board to your Blueprint by clicking **Save to your Blueprint**.
 - After viewing and adding your selected resources, click **View your Blueprint**.

- Select View your Blueprint. There you'll find:
 - Profile summary
 - Regional data for the region you chose when you set up your account
 - Total Job Openings and Jobs in Demand for that region
 - Resources that you saved under Career Exploration Resources, Education & Funding Resources and Job Search Resources

Teacher Instructions

Part C: Blueprint to Support your Career Journey

Review the five tasks of the learning activity. Students will:

1. **Build a collection of resources in their personalized Blueprint** to support their career journey now and into the future. This will be an ongoing activity, as students register, navigate, and explore Blueprint Builder. Encourage students to add a resource they either want to return to or one that may be of help to the people they interviewed. Make sure the students know they can add notes about each resource to refer to later.
2. **Formulate a vision for their career journey** by networking with friends and family. Students complete this task based on the homework assignment from Part A. After students have successfully registered with Blueprint Builder, direct them back to their homework assignment, and lead a discussion as follows:
 - a. Guide them through a discussion of what they found during their interviews. Review the reflection questions with the students. The Career Myth graphics may be helpful or you may wish to create your own diagram on the whiteboard.
 - b. The key to this assignment is connecting students with the idea that there will be many points along their career journey when they will need to find information about occupations, education options and job openings.
3. **Create a career shopping list of elements** they want from their work life, for use now and as a reference into the future. Students complete this shopping list activity adapted from *Career Crafting the Decade after High School: Professional's Guide*. You could show them some examples if that is helpful. Draw from your personal experience or from that of someone you know.
4. **Evaluate various career options against their personalized career shopping list** to identify careers best suited to them. Students build on the shopping list created. They will use their career shopping list and career statement, along with the resources in their Blueprint, to find information about the career options generated by taking one to three Career Compass quizzes, looking at Career Profiles and/or viewing Career Trek videos. Students will create an electronic or handcrafted representation of their career shopping list.
5. **Make a plan to explore a job or work experience they may want to learn more about.** Actual work or volunteer experience in the community is a fantastic way to see if the real life job is a good fit. If students complete the community experience, ask them to reflect on their time spent job shadowing or volunteering. Would they choose to pursue the career option or try something else? Helping students explore career options with intent offers a great opportunity during their high school years. Students can take a Work Experience course or count the hours towards their Work Experience graduation requirements.

6. **Make a product that represents their findings.** The product should reflect the career shopping list, career statement, career options, best career matches and plans to explore career options through a job or work experience. The product can be either electronic or hand crafted.

Assessment Ideas

Self-Assessment

Ask students to provide evidence of the statement:

- ✓ I created a product that reflects my career shopping list, career statement, career options, best career matches and job or work experience plans.
- ✓ I put a link in my product to my occupation found on [WorkBC's Career Trek](#) (if applicable).
- ✓ I had a peer review my product, and I received feedback for improvement.
- ✓ I shared the product with the class, so they learned about my career shopping list and plans for the future.

Teacher Assessment

- ✓ Teacher creates a rubric to assess career shopping list product.

Student Instructions: Part C

Personalized Blueprint to Support your Career Journey

In this activity, you will have the opportunity to explore some career planning resources and learn how you can create your own personalized Blueprint to support your career journey. You will use both the handouts that follow and the [Blueprint Builder](#) resource.

You'll do five tasks in this learning activity:

1. Build a collection of resources in your personalized Blueprint to support your career journey now and into the future.
2. Learn about a typical career path by networking with friends and family.
3. Create a career shopping list of elements you want out of your work life for use now and in the future.
4. Assess various career options against your career shopping list to see if any may be a fit for you.
5. Make a plan to explore a job you want to learn more about to help you make career planning decisions.

Learning Activity

- 1. Build a collection of resources in your personalized Blueprint to support your career journey now and into the future.**
 - a. If you don't have a Blueprint Builder account, then complete [How to Register on Blueprint Builder](#).
 - b. As you go through the rest of the activity, add resources to your Blueprint Builder so you can return to them later to do more research or re-evaluate your choices. Notice that resources matching your profile will be tagged.
 - c. Take all three of the Career Compass quizzes. You can save your quiz results to Blueprint Builder. When you've saved Career Compass and taken a quiz, the results will appear in your personalized Blueprint.
 - d. Using your quiz results, [EducationPlannerBC](#) will provide you with links to undergraduate programs.
 - e. Also, using your quiz results, the [WorkBC Job Board](#) will link to posted jobs that match your results.

2. Reflect on various career paths based on interviews with your network of friends and family.

Homework Assignment: Reflection Questions

- a. Your teacher assigned you some homework to interview friends and family in your network to learn about their career journeys.
- b. Share some of your thoughts with the class.

3. Create a career shopping list of elements that you want from your work life. Think of the shopping list as a “must have” list of what you’d like from a job. You will be able to use this to evaluate various career options now and in the future. As you progress in your career, add more “must haves” to your shopping list as you change with new experiences.

- a. For this activity you will need to use Handout 2 as a guide. Use a format that allows you to represent your career shopping list elements in a meaningful way to you.

b. Create your personalized career shopping list by doing the following:

- i. Take out a blank sheet of paper or start a digital record.

- ii. Do some brainstorming. Think about any work you have done in the past—volunteer, employment, or work around the house. What did you like or dislike about it?

1. Record the things you liked. For instance, perhaps you liked painting the house and doing something hands on, looking after young children, volunteering at an outdoor camp, serving people in a restaurant, reading instructions on how to do something and then making it happen, or making a difference to the environment.

2. Record things you dislike. For instance, you did not like working the late shift at a restaurant, manual labour outdoors, using unfamiliar machinery, or travelling too far out of your community to work in the summer.

3. Create a product that represents your career shopping list using one of the following:

- ✓ A digital book using Book Creator or a similar app.
- ✓ A mind map using a chart paper.
- ✓ A short video presentation using iMovie or any digital recording device.
- ✓ A poster. Use the PicCollage app or make it by hand.

- c. Take a look at the lists you created to see if you can find any themes. You may need to combine information in both like and dislike lists to come up with a theme. If you are having a hard time, ask your teacher for help. An example of a thought process might be:
- i. From the “like” entries, a shopping list item might be being in nature, hiking, working on my own, or working on chores outside around the house.
 - ii. From the “dislike” entries, a shopping list element might be sitting at a desk and working, being in enclosed spaces, or being around too many people.
 - iii. A theme from this would be working outside or working independently.
- ci. Based on the things you liked and disliked and the theme you identified, write a career statement that reflects what you are looking for from your work life. The career statement should capture your themes and describe the things you most want out of your work life, as well as some of the activities you like to do.
- i. An example may be "I most want a career where I work with people, preferably outdoors and where I can make a difference to the environment. I would like my job to be close to the community I live in, so I can spend time with family and friends.
 - ii. Add your statement to the product you created as a way to sum up your career shopping list.

4. Evaluate career options against your career shopping list and career statement.

- a. Log in to your account on Blueprint Builder.
- b. If you have not taken any of the [Career Compass assessment quizzes](#), take them now, or take again if it has been a while since you last did them.
- c. Look at your personalized Blueprint. You will notice that occupations and resources have been generated for you to consider (for each Career Compass quiz you took, with potentially up to 25 results if you completed all three quizzes). Choose your top three occupations and record them. If you can't decide on only three occupations, add more columns to the worksheet. Put a check in the box on the shopping list handout as you find elements of the career that match your career shopping list.
- d. In Career Compass or other career resources found in your Blueprint, do the following:
 - i. Read through the description of the occupations, and consider whether the job may match some of your shopping list elements.

- ii. Click through to the region where the jobs are. Could you see yourself living in one of those areas if it is not where you live now? Does the place where you might work match your shopping list elements?
- iii. Are there job prospects in locations where you are interested in living? Would you make the salary you expect? Does that match your shopping list elements?
- iv. To understand what it is like to live somewhere else, you could look at the Explore B.C. regions in Career Compass.
- v. If you need more information about the career options, continue to use the resources you saved in your Blueprint. You can also go to Browse Careers in Career Compass and type in the title of your chosen career (or a similar career cluster). If you like a career, you can add it to your Blueprint.

For more information on regions in B.C., visit [Hello BC](#). Here you may explore opportunities for your favourite tourist/recreational activities in other places.

- e. Now take a look at your career shopping list to see how these careers stack up.
 - i. Do some career options look like better matches than others?
 - ii. Are there career options you want to eliminate?
 - iii. Are there careers that you know little about? If so, do a bit more research.
 - iv. Note that you can also remove careers from your Blueprint if they are not of interest at this time.
 - v. Add your best matches on your career shopping list product you created in 3 b. above.

5. Make a plan to explore a job or work experience you want to learn more about. Part of making a career decision is learning about a job first hand. Think about which job you'd like to explore further, based on those you evaluated against your shopping list, and make a plan to find out more about the job. You could plan the experience yourself, or work with your career counsellor to find opportunities. If you arrange a work experience, you could even meet a requirement for work hours for graduation.

a. Consider the following options:

- i. **Job Shadow:** You'll need to find someone willing to let you come into their workplace and observe what they do in their job over several days. You could consider occupations that are related to each other, but require different levels of post-secondary education.
- ii. **Information Interview:** Find several people who work in the job and interview them about what they do, the post-secondary education or training they needed, their likes and dislikes about the job, and their advice.
- iii. **Volunteer:** You may know of an organization that is looking for volunteers in the type of work you're interested in.
- iv. **Work Experience 11/12 or the Youth Work in Trades program:** If you have room in your timetable, consider taking a formal work experience course to build your experience and course credits.

b. Create a plan to go along with your shopping list. Include where you might look for work experience and who to contact, then set a timeline for doing these tasks.

Name: _____

Handout 2: Career Shopping List: Key Elements I Want in My Work Life

As you move along your career path, you can use this career shopping list as a guide to assess the information, advice and experiences you encounter. Although the core values on your list will likely stay the same, you may want to update your list as you gain knowledge, including whether there is demand for jobs of interest to you.

- a. Start by entering the brainstormed elements you want from your “like” list.
- b. Then enter (the top three) careers you chose from your Career Compass assessment quiz results.
- c. Put a check mark in the column, if the career you investigated reflected the elements you are looking for in your work life.
- d. Remember to write your career statement at the bottom of the page.

| List of Elements I want in my work life | Career Option: | Career Option: | Career Option: |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| 5. | | | |
| 6. | | | |
| 7. | | | |
| 8. | | | |
| 9. | | | |
| 10. | | | |

Career Statement:
