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Skilled Trades Discussion

This lesson focuses on group discussion and skilled trades. Students will actively participate by sharing their thoughts and perspectives and reflecting on these discussions.




 Teacher-Led	 Requires Computer OR Mobile Device	 Requires myBlueprint
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Learning Goals

1. Students will engage in small group discussions to explore various aspects of skilled trades.
2. Students will actively participate in discussions by sharing their thoughts and perspectives.
3. Students will reflect on the discussion and generate three thought-provoking questions about skilled trades.

Materials

 Student Handouts	Printed Reflection Questions
 Technology Requirements	Computer/internet for the slideshow
 Video/Audio Clips & Other Resources	Skilled Trades Discussion Slideshow Skilled Trades Discussion Cards

Lesson Instructions

Before the Lesson (Minds On)

Ask students the following questions:

If you worked in skilled trades, would you rather:

1. *Pursue a skilled trade that requires physical strength and stamina or one that emphasizes problem-solving and critical thinking skills?*
2. *Work on large-scale projects or focus on smaller, more specialized projects in your skilled trades career?*
3. *Have a wrench for a hand that automatically tightens bolts whenever you make a fist, or have a tape measure that extends to any length you desire whenever you snap your fingers?*

Explain to students that they will be divided into small groups (2-3 students per group) and be handed a series of [question cards](#) related to Skilled Trades.

Students will need to take turns and answer the same questions individually.

Ask students to create a series of golden rules to ensure the discussion activity succeeds. (Slide 3)

During the Lesson (Action)

1. Divide students into small groups (suggested groups of 2- 3)
2. Distribute a set of [discussion question cards](#) to each group. Instruct students that the goal isn't to answer as many questions as possible but to discuss them so everyone can share their thoughts and opinions. When ready, students can randomly select a question from the card deck.
3. Encourage students to actively listen during the discussion, asking follow-up questions and paying attention to their classmate's answers.
4. Monitor the groups as they discuss the questions. Provide guidance and support as needed, ensuring all students actively participate in the discussions. As the students finish answering questions, instruct them to place used question cards into a discard pile. This will help them keep track of the questions they have already discussed.

After the Lesson (Consolidation),

Bring the class together and explain that they will generate three reflection questions based on their small group discussions. (slide 5)

- 1) What is one takeaway from my discussion with my classmates?
- 2) What question did find easiest/ challenging to answer?
- 3) What advice would I give someone interested in a career in skilled trades?

Differentiation / Adapting the Lesson: Instruct students to record their reflection questions and answers by logging in to their myBlueprint account.

Teacher Tip! 💡

As the 25 questions might take a while to answer, you can divide this activity over time. If so, ask students to answer the questions to make it easier for them to keep track of the questions they've already answered.

Handout A: Discussion Question

To print: [Question Cards - Google Drive](#)

1. What skilled trades occupation do you find more interesting and why?
2. Have you ever considered pursuing a career in a skilled trade? If yes, which one(s) and why?
3. What skills do you think are essential for success in skilled trades?
4. Can you think of any misconceptions or stereotypes associated with skilled trades? How would you address them?
5. Why do you think skilled trades are essential in our society?
6. Can you identify any local or global trends that could impact the skilled trades industry?
7. How do you imagine the skilled trades industry will change in the future?
8. What skilled trades job do you believe doesn't exist yet but will in the foreseeable future?
9. If you could build anything, what would it be? Why?
10. Have you ever participated in any activities or programs related to skilled trades exploration? If yes, what did you learn or enjoy about them?
11. What do you believe are the biggest benefits of pursuing a career in skilled trades?
12. What do you believe are the biggest challenges of pursuing a career in skilled trades?
13. How do skilled trades contribute to sustainable and environmentally friendly practices?
14. Is there an equal representation of genders in skilled trades? Why or why not?

15. Are there any skills or qualities you possess that would benefit a skilled trade?
16. Can you think of any individuals who either started or are currently in skilled trades and achieved significant accomplishments?
17. There is currently a shortage of skilled trades workers in Canada; what could be potential solutions to recruit more skilled trades workers?
18. Random question! Would you rather have the ability to perfectly hammer a nail into a surface with your nose or be able to levitate and float while performing skilled trades tasks magically?
19. Would you rather have the power to make any construction material dance and perform choreographed routines or be able to communicate fluently with talking power tools?
20. Would you rather work with a trade that allows creativity and artistic expression or one that focuses on precise technical skills?
21. Would you rather specialize in a trade that allows creativity and artistic expression or one that focuses on specific technical skills?
22. Which skilled trades do you believe requires the most creativity and why?
23. Would you rather work outdoors or indoors in your skilled trades career?
24. Would you rather work independently or as part of a team in your skilled trades career?
25. If you were a marketer, what would be your slogan for a company that works in the skilled trades industry?