

No Place Like Home

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Activity #1

Nebraska State Education Content Standards:

Reading/Writing: 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.2.1, 8.2.5, 12.1.1, 12.1.2, 12.2.1

Math: 8.1.1, 8.1.3, 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 12.5.2

Social Studies: 8.4.9

Supplies needed:

The list of occupations, the list of states, computer, internet access, “No Place Like Home” worksheet, pencil. Computer files: Occupations, States, NECities

Life Skills:

Keeping records, Wise use of resources, Planning/Organizing, Critical thinking, Decision making, Goal setting, Learning to learn.

Experience:

Have students complete the “No Place Like Home” (NPLH) worksheet. The data collected will be shared at a later time.

Process:

In order to do this unit, a list of 120 occupations has been assembled. More occupations can be found at the web site: <http://nytimes.salary.com>

Before you begin, print off the files: Occupations and States. Print each on a different color. Cut apart and put into a container. Make sure each student draws three slips, one of each color. Copy the “No Place Like Home” worksheet for each student. The worksheet will direct them on the steps they need to follow to access the following information.

Although the main intent of this unit is for students to compare the cost of living in their home state with some other city and state in the United States, it could also easily focus on careers and occupations that are available. Each student should draw for an occupation, but another approach could be to allow them time to look through the list of occupations and choose the one they are most interested in.

It is suggested you have students draw for their occupation. This not only allows students an opportunity to learn about an occupation they may never have considered before, it also provides plenty of giggles as they may draw an occupation that has strong gender ties.

Extending this activity: Exploring other occupations and careers can be expanded, if you wish, by using the Occupation Handbook supplied by the Department of Labor. It is available on-line at: <http://stats.bls.gov/search/ooh.asp?ct=OOH>

This link takes you to alphabetical access. At this site students can learn about: the nature of work, working conditions, the 5 year job outlook, earnings, related occupations, and training needed for each occupation. It is an excellent resource for students wanting to learn more about different jobs.

Generalize:

How are different jobs comparable? Does living in a different part of the country make a big difference in the expected salaries for some occupations?

Apply:

Have students draw for their occupation and state. Distribute the “No Place Like Home” worksheet. Using the web site: <http://nytimes.salary.com> have the students locate their occupation, write a brief description of that job and necessary education, and the median salary for that occupation in each state to be compared.

Lesson Evaluation:

- Students will demonstrate they could locate and accurately record the data requested in this activity.