

Interests and Skills



Have you ever thought about what kind of a job you want to have when you finish school and enter the work force? There are so many different types of work, and because our world is always changing, there are new jobs being created every day. There are lots of opportunities to find a job that you enjoy and do well.

Sometimes people know at a young age what kind of job they want to have when they grow up. Other times, it takes people longer to figure out. You have a lot of time until you need to make that decision, but it's never too early to begin thinking about your future career. The more thought you put into it, the more time you have to gather information to help you make the best decision.

One way you can start exploring this decision is by thinking about your skills and interests. Then, you can find jobs that match what you like to do. You can start thinking about this now, although they might change as you get older. The important thing is that you take time to think about your skills and interests.

Complete the survey below by checking all the boxes that appeal to you.. Then use that information to see what jobs match well with your interests and skills.

My Interest & Skill Inventory

In each rectangle, check the boxes of all activities below that highly interest you and/or you are good at.

Rectangle #1

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using your imagination | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing for others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creating art | <input type="checkbox"/> Being creative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making music | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |

Rectangle #2

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being outside in nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping animals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning about plants and animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Studying animal habitats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growing plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Studying the climate & environment |

Rectangle #3

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working with numbers | <input type="checkbox"/> Figuring out how things work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Following directions | <input type="checkbox"/> Solving problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working with your hands | <input type="checkbox"/> Building things |

Name _____

Rectangle #4

- Learning about the human body
- Helping people
- Researching
- Working with people
- Studying science
- Listening to others

Rectangle #5

- Thinking about new solutions
- Working with computers
- Understanding how things work together
- Figuring out how sequence and order changes something
- Creating things with technology
- Being willing to try new things

Rectangle #6

- Making things
- Working with tools
- Working with machines
- Paying attention to details
- Producing quality work
- Comparing things

Rectangle #7

- Thinking about new solutions
- Making decisions
- Leading others
- Organizing things
- Being in charge
- Being dependable

Name _____

My Interest & Skill Inventory

Add up the total number of items checked in each rectangle and compare the totals to determine the rectangle with the highest score. Then, read the description below that matches the rectangle with your highest score. Circle below which one you scored highest in.

Rectangle #1: Your interest and skills might be in the Arts – People who work in the arts work in art galleries, theaters, publishing companies and schools. Jobs to consider for those interested in the arts: graphic designer, interior decorator, artist, musician, news reporter, broadcaster, photographer, writer, hair stylist.

Rectangle #2: Your interest and skills might be in Agriculture and Natural Resources – People who work in agriculture or natural resource jobs work on farms or in nature like near oceans, in forests or zoos or national parks. Jobs to consider for those interested in agriculture and natural resources include: veterinarian, farmer, landscaper, park ranger, animal care specialist.

Rectangle #3: Your interest and skills might be in Architecture & Construction – People working in the fields of architecture and construction work with tools to build roads and buildings. Jobs to consider for those interested in architecture and construction include: architect, plumber, carpenter, engineer, electrician.

Rectangle #4: Your interest and skills might be in the Health Sciences – People in the health science industry work in hospitals, doctor offices, pharmacies, and laboratories. Jobs to consider for those interested in health sciences: nurse, doctor, dentist, pharmacist, physician assistant, therapist, microbiologist, lab technologist.

Rectangle #5: Your interest and skills might be in Technology – People who work in technology work with computers and a lot of information in any type of business. Jobs to consider for those interested in technology: programmer, web developer, software engineer, computer technician, video editor, security specialist.

Rectangle #6: Your interest and skills might be in Manufacturing – People who work in manufacturing work in factories, offices and warehouses to make things. Jobs to consider for those interested in manufacturing: drafter, machine operator, tool and die maker, printer, mechanical engineer.

Rectangle #7: Your interest and skills might be in Business Administration – People who work in business administration help a business to run smoothly. They work in offices, banks, or any type of business. Jobs to consider for those interested in business administration: business owner, accountant, manager, supervisor, human resources.