

# Eco-Careers

## Age/Grade Range

- Ages: 6-13

## Group Size

- Large group activity (15-30 students)

## Time

- Prep time: 30 minutes
- Set-up: 5-10 minutes
- Activity: 1 hr
- Materials
- Name tags with strings for all students with different environment-related careers on them.
- Different coloured construction paper.

## Set-Up

1. Try to arrange 1 to 4 guest speakers who can speak to the kids about their environmental careers.
2. Ensure you have a large space where students will be able to gather in a circle.
3. Make name tags with different environment-related careers on them. Write each category on a different colour of construction paper. Put name tags on strings to go around kid's necks.

## Delivery Tips

- Best run with at least two guest speakers who can talk about their careers with the kids before you start the activity. Encourage them to bring props, animal pelts, tools (if appropriate) to help the kids grasp what the career is all about.
- This activity can be done outside if the weather is nice.
- In the past, we've used four different careers: Water Technician, Environmental Educator, Geologist, and Wildlife Officer. You could use any environmental career you want. Keep the careers simple and easy to remember.



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## Topics

- Ecology and Animals

## Objective

- Learn about environmental careers, and do a fun active activity.





## Guest Speakers

1. Explain that you will be learning about environmental careers. Introduce your guest speakers. Divide the class into groups and send each group off with one of the guests to learn about a different career.
2. Give each group 5-10 minutes to listen and learn from the guest speaker. Then rotate groups so that each student hears about each career.
3. As the instructor, move between groups and listen to some of each presentation. Think of questions you can ask the kids after about what they learned. Help to coordinate the group rotations.
4. When the speakers finish, have the kids sit in a circle on the floor and asked them questions about what they learned.
5. While you have them in a circle, have them brainstorm all of the different jobs you could do that relate to (helping) the environment.

## Eco-career Game

1. Have the kids take off their shoes to leave as place markers (bags or jackets can also be used if they don't want to take off their shoes),
2. Go around the circle and hand out a career nametag to each person. Explain each of the four professions for the kids to get an idea of what their 'job' is.
3. Someone stands in the centre and yells out one of the careers. Everyone around the circle with that career must now run around and trade spots. The person in the middle also runs to a spot. In the end, there is one person left who won't find a spot (like musical chairs). This person is now 'it,' they stand in the middle of the circle and call out whatever job they want to, and it continues.
4. After a while, you can introduce something like "Save the Planet!" where EVERY career has to run around to find a new spot.

## Questions/Points of Discussion

- Which career do you like the best?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?

## Modifications

- If you are inside and have access to chairs, they will make better place holders than shoes.
- If you don't have any guest speakers, you could create your stations with props and pictures so that the kids can still explore and learn about a few different careers.

