

Lesson One – Careers in Building Trades: Carpenter

FOCUS: Carpenter Skills and Abilities

10 minutes

Purpose:

Careers in Building Trades include carpentry. This lesson will take a closer look at the variety of opportunities available today for those wishing to pursue a career in this area.

Materials:

- *What Makes a Good Carpenter* handout

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share the information below with the class:

Instructor information: Building trades encompass a variety of construction jobs, including carpentry, flooring, masonry, and plumbing. If you want to begin work immediately and have some basic skills, you can land a job as a painter, landscaper, or carpet installer with very little training or experience. As you learn the trade, you may decide to open your own business or move into a larger company. If you want to become an electrician, plumber, pipefitter, or welder, you will need to go to vocational school and complete an apprenticeship. For example, becoming an electrician requires learning the trade, becoming an apprentice, and practicing alongside a certified electrician prior to becoming licensed. This journey may take five years, but you will be paid while in training.

This lesson will focus specifically on the carpentry area.

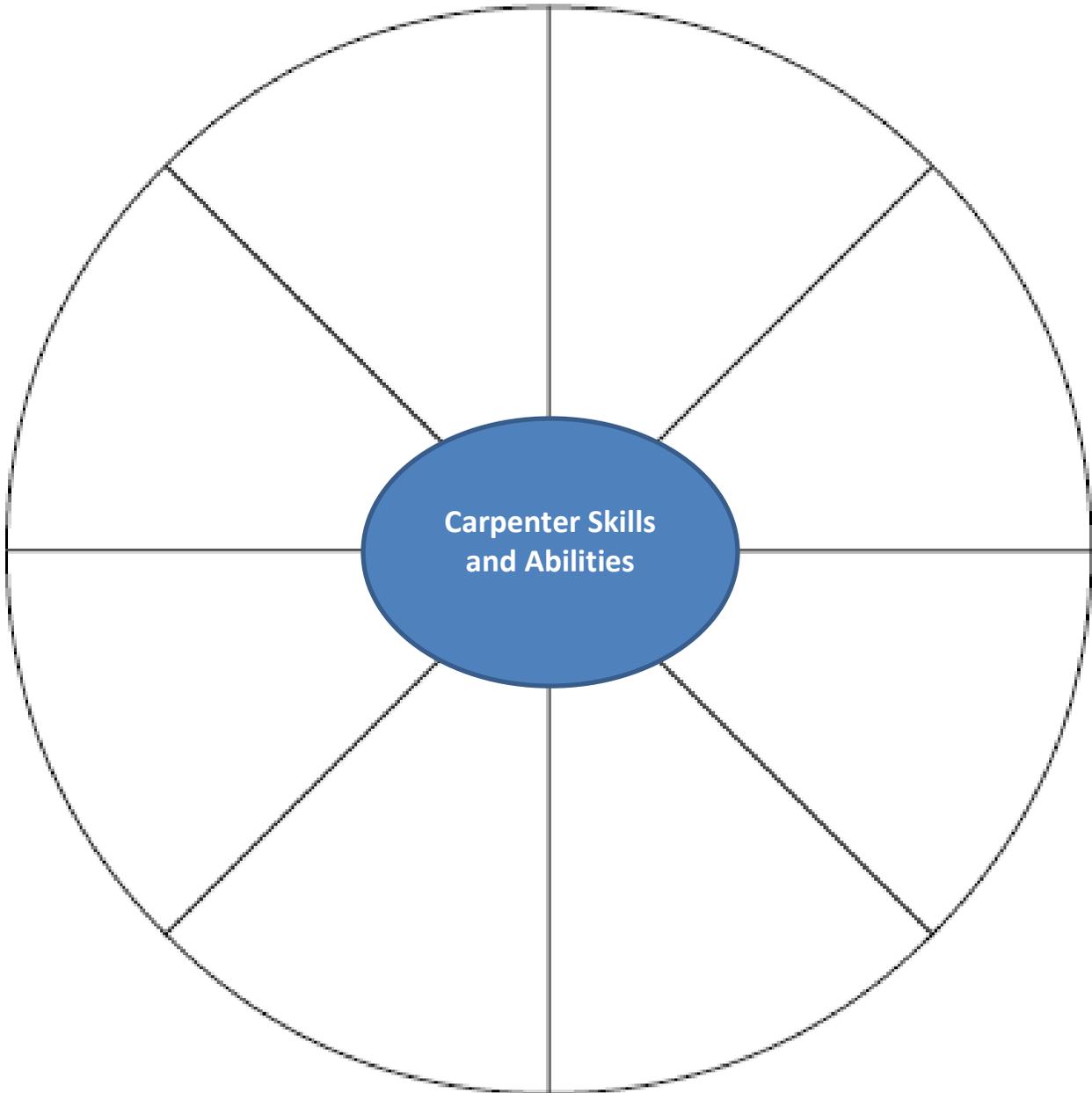
Give students the *What Makes a Good Carpenter* handout. Have students pair up and give them five minutes to brainstorm and write down as many skills and abilities as possible.

2. Call the class back together and ask students the following question: What skills and abilities should a successful employee have as a carpenter?
3. Write student responses on a master list on a whiteboard or similar item. Continue calling upon students until every group has had a chance to contribute to the list.
4. Share a list of carpenter skills and abilities from a career or occupational website such as:

<https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/47-2031.00>

What Makes a Good Carpenter

List as many skills and abilities you can think of in the spaces provided that successful employees working as a carpenter would possess.



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LEARN: Job Description Project

30-90 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to have participants take a closer look at several different careers in carpentry.

Materials:

- Library and internet resources
- *Job Description Project* instructions
- *Job Postings* handout

Facilitation Steps:

1. Give students the *Job Description Project* instructions. Tell them that they can use the internet or other sources in the library for their research. Here are a few helpful websites:
 - www.bls.gov
 - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
 - www.careerinfonet.org
 - www.careervoyages.gov
 - http://careerplanning.about.com/od/occupations/a/career_briefs.htm
 - <http://www.onetonline.org/find/career?c=10&g=Go>
2. Give students one or two class periods to complete their research. You can also assign this as homework. Students should prepare a job posting for four positions listed in the instructions. You may give the students the *Job Postings* handout for this task.
3. The suggested grading rubric for the *Job Description Project* is 25 points for each completed job posting if all information is complete. Deduct points for missed information in required sections.

Job Description Project

Scenario: You are the Director of Human Resources for a new construction company that provides many types of building services. Your task is to hire four new employees that will work in your company. You will be completing job postings for four positions. Choose from: Carpenter, Carpenter Assistant, Framers, Cabinet Maker, Rough Carpenter, Dry Wall, and Ceiling Tile Installer (or other related titles of choice in this pathway). For each job posting, you must include the following information:

- Job title
- Degree, certification, or licenses required
- Summary of the general nature and level of the job
- List of duties or tasks performed critical to success
- Job location where the work will be conducted (environment)
- Equipment used in the performance of the job (if any)
- Starting salary range (per year or hour)

You may photocopy and use the *Job Postings* handout. Prepare four different job postings, one for each position that you need to hire.

Job Postings

Job Title	
Degree, certification, or licenses required	
Summary and level of the job	
List of duties or tasks	
Job location and work environment	
Equipment to be used – if anything specific	
Starting salary (per year or hour)	

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REVIEW: Carpenter Skills Self-Assessment

5-10 minutes (optional activity 60-90 minutes)

Purpose:

To review what students have learned about career opportunities relating to carpentry and see if they possess the qualities to succeed in this occupational area.

Materials:

- *Carpentry Skills Self-Assessment*
- *Careers Relating to Carpentry*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Give each student the *Carpentry Skills Self-Assessment*. Give them five to ten minutes to complete it.
2. Have students add up the total number of boxes they have checked in the "Yes" column and the "No" column. If you have more yes boxes checked than no boxes, you may make a good carpenter.
3. Pass out the *Careers Relating to Carpentry* handout to those interested.

Extension Activity: Contact a variety of local employers that relate to careers in this occupational area. Invite them to attend a panel discussion in your class.

On the day of the panel discussion, set up your space with a table and seating for all panel members at the front of the room. If sound is an issue, have a microphone available.

Invite participants in the audience to ask questions to panel members. Remind participants ahead of time to keep questions relevant to work. You may ask participants to submit questions in advance if desired.

Carpentry Skills Self-Assessment

Check Yes or No, reflecting on your skills and abilities.

Yes No

___ ___ Strong critical thinking skills

___ ___ Ability to monitor the performance of yourself and others, making improvements or corrective action when needed

___ ___ Effective communication skills

___ ___ Ability to read, understand and apply industry information

___ ___ Flexible and adaptable on the job

___ ___ Strong active listening skills

___ ___ Strong time management skills

___ ___ Able to use a variety of strategies in unpredictable circumstances

___ ___ Strong visualization skills, able to see how something will look

___ ___ Strong math skills

___ ___ Ability to problem solve and make decisions

___ ___ Enjoy working with your hands

___ ___ The ability to remain calm and focused in difficult situations

___ ___ The ability to work well on a team or independently with equal success

Total "Yes" _____ "No" _____

Careers Relating to Carpentry

Cabinet Maker	Finish carpenters
Carpenter (self-employed)	Custom wood stair builders
Concrete Carpenter	Hardwood floor installers
Construction Worker	House carpenters
Form Carpenter	Industrial carpenters
Site Foreman	Residential carpenters
General Contractor	Rough carpenters
Apprentice carpenters	Wood floor layers
Beam builders	Framer
Brattice builders	Assembler
Building carpenters	Bridge Carpenter
Carpenter apprentices	Bridge Repair Crew Person
Commercial carpenters	Brickmasons and Blockmasons
Construction carpenters	Terrazzo Workers and Finishers
Counter installers	Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers