WHERE AM I HEADED?
Do you ever daydream about the future? Ever think about what you’d like to do after high school? You may like to imagine the life you’re going to lead, the house where you’ll live or the car you’ll drive. Maybe you picture yourself as a doctor, judge, artist, entertainer or truck driver.

If you have a goal, good for you! You’re one step ahead of the game. If you haven’t decided on one yet, no worries. The great news is you don’t have to plan out the rest of your life right now. You have plenty of time to make those decisions. But it’s never too early to start imagining the things you’ll do and the places you’ll go.

One way to get started is to think about your hobbies or special interests. What do you like to do with your free time? It’s possible these activities could lead you to a career that you’d enjoy.

Check out the following pages to identify activities that you think sound interesting. You don’t have to be good at the activities—just check them if you think they’re something you’d like to explore or learn more about.

After some exploration, you’ll be able to see if you’re a persuader, thinker, organizer, creator, helper or doer. By identifying your interests and figuring out which category fits you best, you just might find a career that can help make your dreams come true.
Supervising people  
Being elected class president  
Convincing people to do things your way  
Saving and managing money  
Selling something  
Talking to people at a party

Studying bugs or plants  
Solving hard math problems  
Asking questions  
Learning about the solar system  
Reading about art or music  
Participating in a science fair

Being organized  
Using a cash register  
Following directions  
Creating a filing system  
Paying attention to details  
Working with numbers

Performing in front of an audience  
Drawing or painting a picture  
Helping people solve problems  
Redecorating your room  
Learning a foreign language  
Using your imagination

Volunteering with a charity  
Babysitting or teaching children  
Working with older people  
Making people laugh  
Joining a club  
Planning events or activities

Building things with your hands  
Running a race  
Painting a piece of furniture  
Doing outdoor activities  
Studying animals  
Playing with a chemistry set
Now it’s time to do some math! Look back at your worksheet and count how many times you checked something in each of the categories and then record your answers below.

Each of the letters stands for an interest group. Each interest group has jobs that tend to go along with it. The letter that has the highest score represents your primary interest group.

E stands for enterprising. If most of the activities you checked are from this category you’re a persuader who’s competitive and a natural leader. You might enjoy working where you can start projects or develop new products or ideas. You like action and enjoy persuading people to do things your way. Consider exploring sales, real estate, politics or owning your own business.

I is for investigative. If you mostly chose these activities, you’re a thinker who probably likes finding facts, exploring and problem-solving. You might enjoy working in finance or math, as a teacher, or as a doctor or engineer.

C is for conventional. Conventional people are organizers who may like working with information, numbers and details. Accounting, business or banking may be just the field for you.

A is for artistic. Artistic people are creators who like things to be unique and original. If “A” is your primary interest group, consider working in an environment where you’re free to use your imagination. Art therapy, animation, music, painting or acting may be areas of interest for you.

S is for social. Being social means you’re a helper who’s probably cooperative and supportive, and you like to take care of people or things. Helpers tend to make good nurses, athletic trainers, counselors or social workers.

R is for realistic. Realistic people are doers who are hands-on, practical people. You may be a natural athlete or you might enjoy being outdoors. Doers make good police officers, veterinarians, mechanics, architects or landscapers.

Just because you score highest in one primary interest group doesn’t mean you have to take a job that relates to that interest. These are simply ideas to point you in the direction of careers you might enjoy.
So how do you find out if you’ll really like a job or not? Get involved in activities that relate to your interests. For example, if you think you’d like to work with animals, consider joining 4-H, volunteering at an animal shelter or pet-sitting for extra money. If you’re drawn to art as a hobby, you could make birthday cards for your family and friends or learn to make jewelry. You have a lot of time to explore your interests before you have to make a decision, so have fun with it!

Think it through.

According to the scores you just wrote down, what interest group(s) do you fit into?

________________________________________________________________________________

Do you think these results are accurate? Why or why not?

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Right at this moment, what sounds like a career you’d enjoy?

________________________________________________________________________________

Talk to your parents!

Share your scores for each interest group with your parents. Ask them if they’re surprised by the scores and discuss what you like or dislike about certain careers.

Tell your parents if a certain activity listed in the interest groups sounded particularly fun or exciting. Share your concerns with your parents and ask them to help you outline the steps to take to feel more confident about pursuing a particular career.