



I'm Going To College
Activity Book

NOLA®

This activity book belongs to:

Name of student who is “going to college”



NORTHWEST EDUCATION LOAN ASSOCIATION®

Adapted from the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) *I'm Going to College Student Activity Book*, 3200 Fifth Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95817. Reprinted with permission.

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What Is COLLEGE?

CHAPTER ONE



What is college?

What types of colleges are there to choose from?

How can I find a college that's right for me?

What Is College?

A *college* is a school after high school where students can earn different kinds of degrees. A degree is like a high school diploma, only better. It means you have passed college.

A *bachelor's degree* is earned by a person who has completed about four years of classes in a college major.

A *major* is a subject that you like and decide to study in college. For example, if you decide to study math, most of the classes you take in college would be about math.

What Types of Colleges Are There to Choose From?

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A community college is a school where students earn two-year degrees and certificates in special programs.

UNIVERSITY

A university is a school where students earn bachelor's degrees. A university can also offer master's degrees and doctorate degrees, which are degrees earned after a bachelor's degree. Many universities have thousands of students.

PRIVATE COLLEGE

A private college is a school where students earn bachelor's degrees. Some private colleges offer master's and doctorate degrees. Some may be religious colleges.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

A vocational school is a school that trains students for specific jobs like computer technicians, diesel mechanics and hair stylists.

Information You Need to Know About College

SIZE

How many students go to that college?

TYPE

Is it a two-year or a four-year college?

Does the school have specialized programs such as performing arts, athletics, architecture or engineering?

LOCATION

Where is the school located? Will you have to move to a new town?

COST

How much will it cost to go there? Will you be able to get scholarships?

MAJOR

What is your favorite subject? Do you like biology, computer science or art? Different schools offer different majors.

How Can You Find a College That is Right for You?

It will be easier to find a college that you like if you know the right questions to ask. Think about things that are important to you in a college.

Activity 1 – Key Questions

What do you like to do?

Do you like being in large groups with lots of new people to meet or small groups where you know everyone?

Do you like going to new places, or do you prefer to stay close to home?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

What sports do you like to play?

What is your favorite subject in school?

Activity 2 – Locating Colleges on the Map

There are colleges all over the United States that you can attend. Some of them might be close to your home, and some of them very far away. Although it may cost more to go to a school in another state, there are no boundaries to keep you from going there if that is what you want. Sometimes people can find schools that meet their plans better in another city or even another state. This activity will help you see how far away some of the colleges in the United States are from where you live now.

DIRECTIONS

On the next page there is a map of the United States with the states outlined. Above and below the map are names of colleges in different cities from all over the United States. To complete the map, draw lines from the college name to the state on the map where you think that college is located. If you have different colored pens, pencils or crayons, try using a different color for each line.

- University of Missouri (St. Louis, Missouri)
- Howard University (Washington, D.C.)
- Columbia University (New York)
- Loyola University (Chicago, Illinois)
- North Seattle Community College (Seattle, Washington)
- University of Idaho (Moscow, Idaho)
- Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts)



- University of Miami (Miami, Florida)
- Morehouse College (Atlanta, Georgia)
- University of California Los Angeles (Los Angeles, California)
- San Jose State University (San Jose, California)
- Santa Fe Community College (Santa Fe, New Mexico)
- University of Texas at Austin (Austin, Texas)

Activity 3 – College Exploration

Part of the fun of going to college is you get to choose which school to attend. This activity is to help you prepare to research colleges you are interested in attending. To complete this activity, you will need help from your teacher, who will explain how to use the materials in your school's College Corner. Once you understand how to use these materials and have looked at some of the information on colleges, write two or three paragraphs about one college you choose to research.

Some suggestions to write about:

- Tell what you like most about the college you choose.
- Describe what the college looks like.
- Explain why you like the city where the college is located.

COLLEGE NAME

LOCATION

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING

MAJORS THAT INTEREST ME

OTHER THINGS I LEARNED IN THE COLLEGE CORNER ABOUT MY COLLEGE

Benefits of a College Education

CHAPTER TWO



Role Model: Become someone to look up to.

Community: Make your town a better place to live.

Economic: Meet your lifestyle goals.

Personal growth: Learn about the world and your place in it.

Role Model: Become Someone to Look Up To

Who do you want to be like when you get older? Almost everyone has someone they respect and admire. Whether that person is a parent, a teacher or even someone famous, he or she is one of your role models. Think about what you like about that person. Did he or she go to college? Is that person very good at a particular skill or trade?

Next, think about the children who are younger than you. Do they look up to you? You might not know it, but some of them probably do. They like you, and they're proud of you! You are one of their role models.

Someday a younger person may look up to you as a role model who encourages him or her to go to college. Many people go to college to be an example to their younger sisters and brothers or friends, showing them that it can be done. College can help you become the person you want to be.

Community: Make Your Town a Better Place to Live

You might know some adults who are very good at helping others. Some of them are Little League baseball coaches, some volunteer to help with different activities in your neighborhood. It is important that people do these sorts of things to improve our lives and the place where we live. Going to college is also important because you learn more about helping people. When you graduate, you will be better informed and able to help people in many different ways.

Economic: Meet Your Lifestyle Goals

Another reason to get a college education is so you have a chance to help yourself with a good career. A good job lets you make the amount of money you need to live the way you want to. This does not mean you have to be a millionaire. Liking your job is just as important.

Activity 4 – Your Role Model

Try to think of someone you admire who has gone to college. If you don't know anyone who went to college, think of someone who has special skills that took a lot of practice and hard work to develop. Write two or three paragraphs about why you admire that person.

College Costs

CHAPTER THREE



How much does it cost to go to college?

How can I pay for my education?

What is financial aid?

How Much Does It Cost to Go to College?

That is a very tough question to answer because colleges have different costs. Some colleges are more expensive than others. Below are the sort of things you will have to pay for when you go to college.

TUITION AND FEES

College is not free like elementary/middle school. You will have to pay to go to college. The amount you pay is called *tuition*.

ROOM AND BOARD

If you won't be living with your family while you go to college, you may want to rent an apartment by yourself or with friends, or live at the college in special rooms called dorms. Food is also something you will need to buy. Food, housing and living expenses are called *room and board*.

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

You have to buy books and supplies for your classes. Books are not free in college.

How Can I Pay for My Education?

There are many ways to pay for your college education. Some of the most common ways are listed on the next page. Even though college can be expensive, there is money available that can help you pay for it. This money is called *financial aid*. Financial aid is money that helps you pay college costs.

Besides getting financial aid, many students work hard at jobs while they are in school. The money they earn helps pay their college costs.

On the next page are the types of financial aid that are available to help people go to school.

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

It is never too early for you and your family to start saving for college. You can even open your own bank account with some help from an adult. Then you can add money to your account as often as you like. Even though you may not have much money now, the amount you save can really add up by the time you're ready for college.

GRANTS

Grants are money from the government and college that is free. There are many grants for college, and some are worth thousands of dollars.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are money given to students who have shown certain abilities. Most scholarships are given to students with good grades and students who participate in extra school activities. Scholarships are an honor to receive.

WORK-STUDY

Work-study is the chance to work and earn money to help pay for school.

LOANS

A loan is money you borrow that you must pay back. Usually, you do not have to repay loans until after you finish school.

Remember, you can apply to any college you want, even if you think your family cannot afford it.

Financial aid is available to help so you can go to the college you choose.

Even if your grades are not great, you can still get financial aid. Most scholarships require good grades, but most financial aid does not.

When you are a senior in high school, you will be asked to fill out an application for the college you want to attend and an application for financial aid. There will be counselors and college advisors to help you fill out these applications.

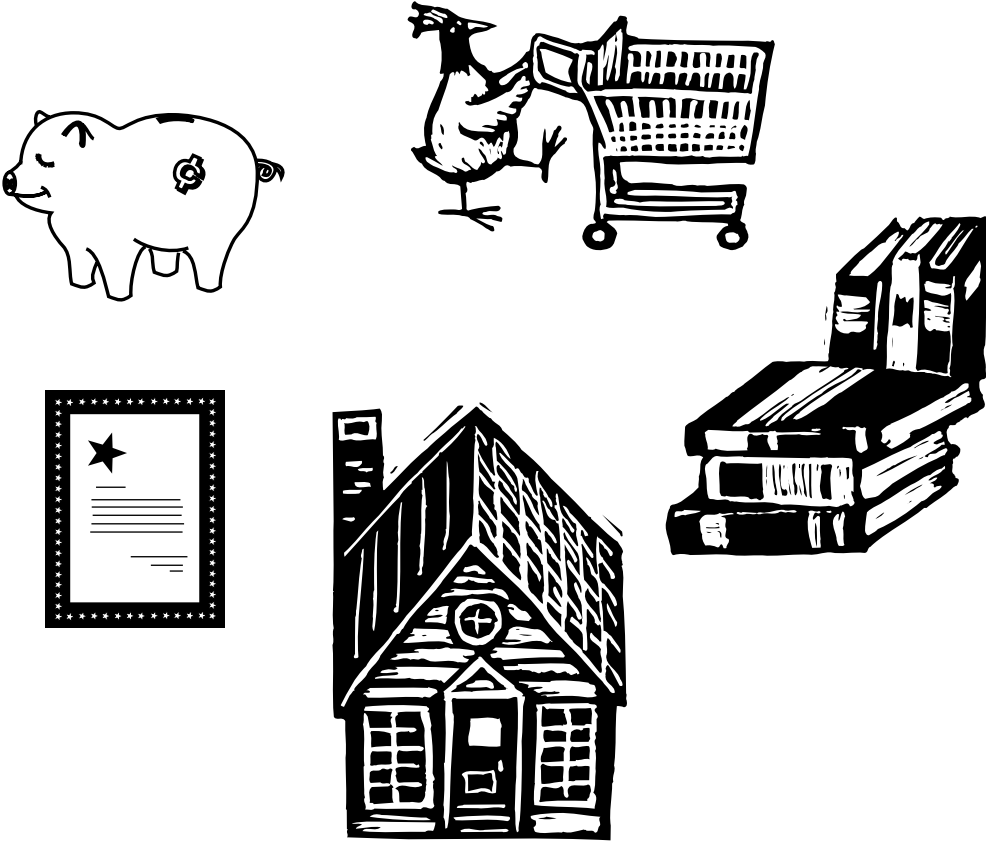
Now that you know what is available and how to apply, the most important thing to remember is that when you make your decision to go to college, there is money available to help you out.

Activity 5 – Finding Your Resources

This activity will help you learn about the different types of financial aid available and the expenses college students must pay.

DIRECTIONS

Draw lines from the pictures to the words that match. For school cost items, draw red lines. For financial aid items draw green lines. If you have extra time when you are finished, you can color the pictures.



Rent Savings Food Books Scholarships

Activity 6 – Financial Aid Word Search

DIRECTIONS

Find the following words in the puzzle, and mark them with your pencil. You may have to look carefully as some words may be written backwards.

1. Budget
2. Deadline
3. Money
4. Grants
5. Scholarship
6. Work-study
7. Student loan
8. Application
9. Tuition
10. Savings
11. Planning

P	N	J	T	E	N	I	L	D	A	E	D
I	P	A	M	D	M	O	N	E	Y	G	V
H	Z	Y	O	P	K	A	I	W	J	V	I
S	A	P	P	L	I	C	A	T	I	O	N
R	U	T	M	A	T	X	Z	Y	I	F	G
A	N	K	X	N	B	N	D	U	Z	U	S
L	G	R	A	N	T	S	E	J	O	L	T
O	Z	J	B	I	H	B	U	D	G	E	T
H	W	I	N	N	X	J	K	L	U	N	O
C	P	Q	S	G	N	I	V	A	S	T	Q
S	Y	D	U	T	S	K	R	O	W	Q	S

Getting Ready for College

CHAPTER FOUR



How important are good grades?

What subjects will help?

Getting Ready for College

Although college seems pretty far away, there is a lot you can do now to begin getting ready. Many colleges want you to have good grades and test scores, or they will not let you attend. Also, there are certain subjects that can make college work easier if you study hard and do well in them before you go to college.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE GOOD GRADES?

Good grades are important, but you don't have to be super smart to get them. Most students get good grades by studying hard. Sometimes this means you can't go out and play if your homework is not done. Students get good grades by working hard and not giving up. Having good attendance in school, practicing good study habits, and doing your homework on time will put you on the right track for college.

WHAT SUBJECTS WILL HELP?

Reading and writing are important skills that are needed to do well in school and also for your future job. Your college will require you to take tests to see how well you can read and write. You can learn to read and write well by reading as many books and stories as you can. Also, writing stories, letters, reports and essays will give you the practice you need to become a good writer.

Along with good test scores, colleges will want to make sure you have taken certain classes in high school. If you tell your high school counselor that you are going to college, he or she can help you pick the classes that you will need to take.

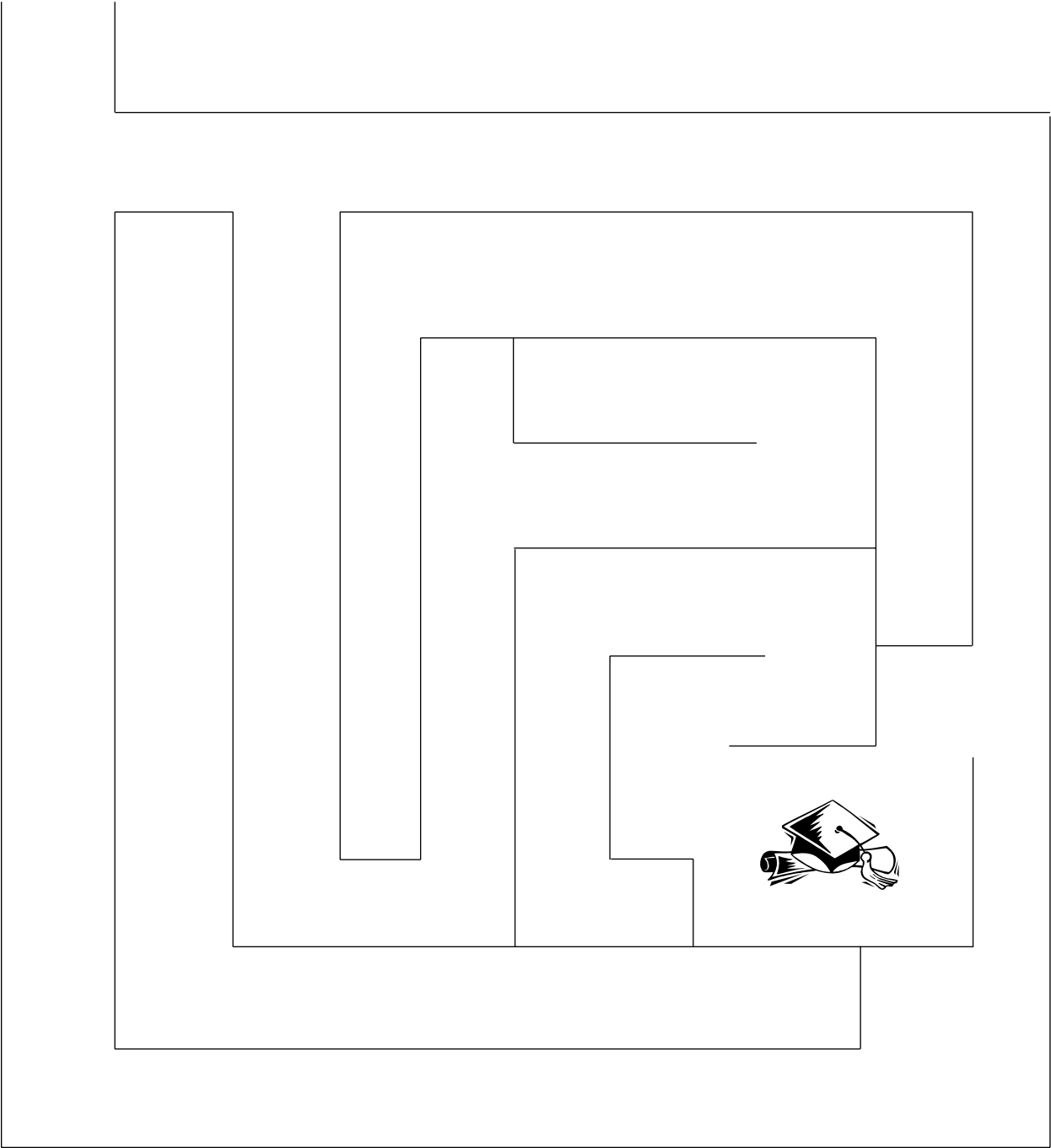
Remember, now is the time to start getting ready for college by:

- Doing your homework every day.
- Reading as much as you can.
- Working to improve your writing skills.
- Having good attendance at school.

By doing all these things, you will be on the right track for college!

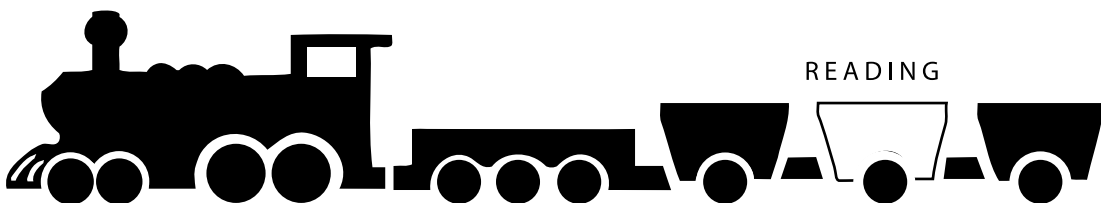
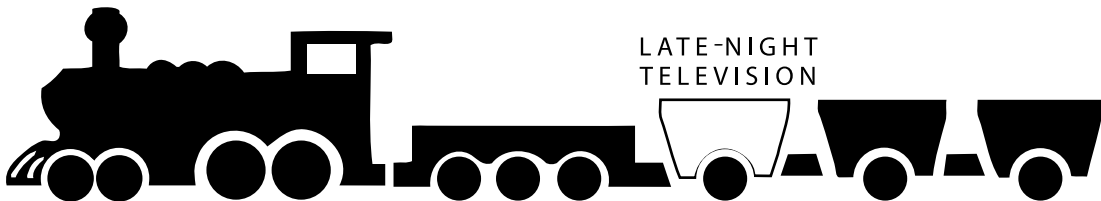
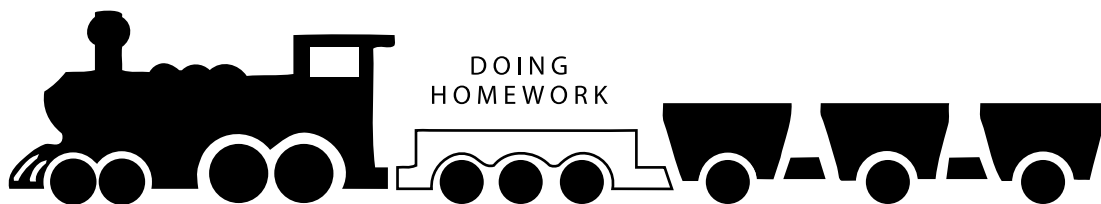
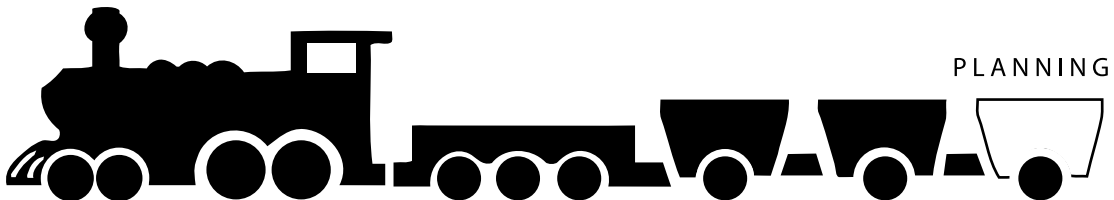
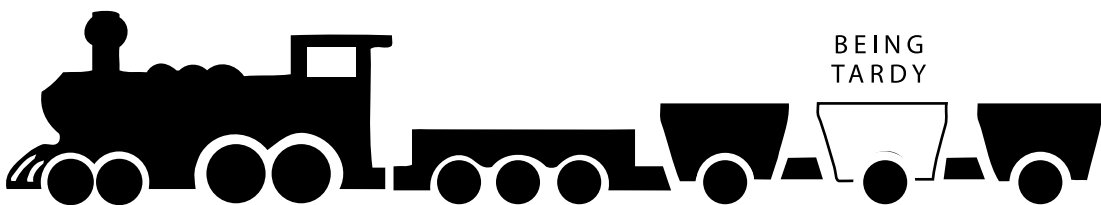
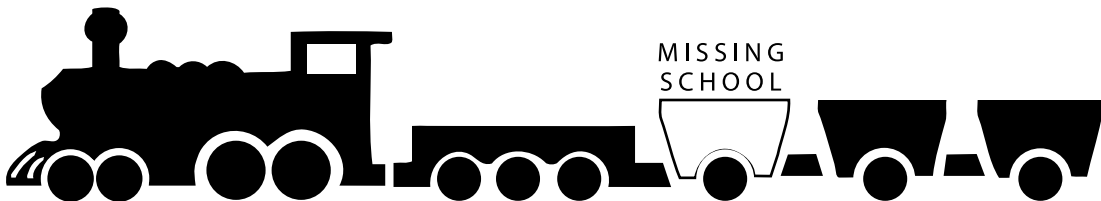
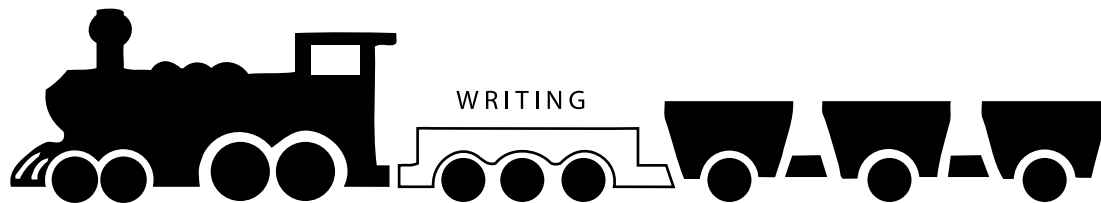
Activity 7 – College Maze

Start



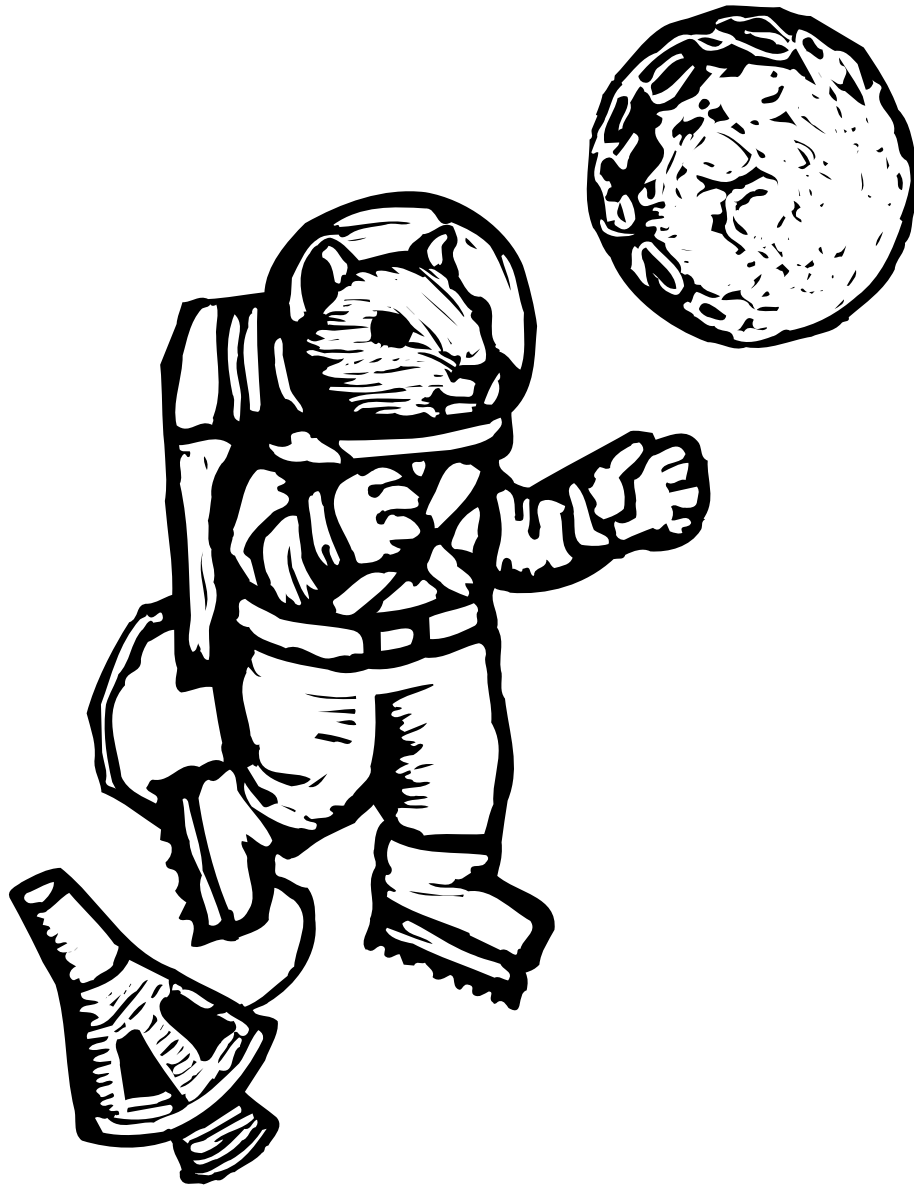
Activity 8 – Getting on Track to College

Color the boxcars that will help you get to college.



Careers and Choices

CHAPTER FIVE



What is a career?

How do I choose a career?

Careers and Choices

There are many reasons for going to college. One is so you can pick what you want to be and the type of work you will do. By going to college, you will be able to choose which career is right for you.

WHAT IS A CAREER?

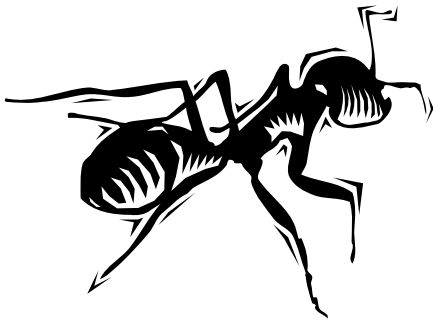
A career is the area your job will be in. It can be in education, health, engineering, science, math, music, business or any other field. That's what is exciting! You get to think of what you would like to be and begin to plan for it now. A college education allows you to pick from many choices.

HOW DO I CHOOSE A CAREER?

Choosing a career is not always easy. Many people choose a career by what they think they may like to do someday. Others may think about what they like doing best, then choose a career. There are even tests that can help you find what jobs or careers are right for you. It is important to remember that many people change their minds on what they want to be, even college students. But picking a career is half the fun!

Activity 9 – Career Matching

What career do you think these students would like more: biology, engineering, teaching or architecture?



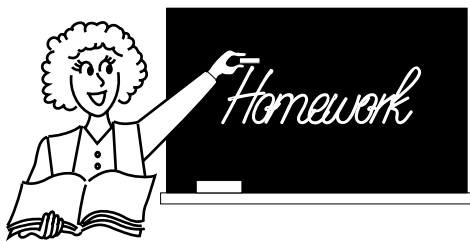
Juan and Linda both like collecting insects and leaves.

Future career? _____



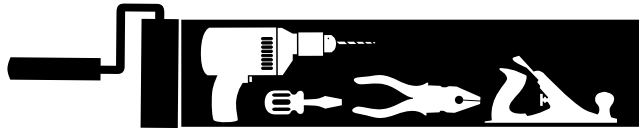
Theresa and Willie like to draw buildings and houses.

Future career? _____



Lisa and James enjoy helping their brothers and sisters with math and spelling homework.

Future career? _____

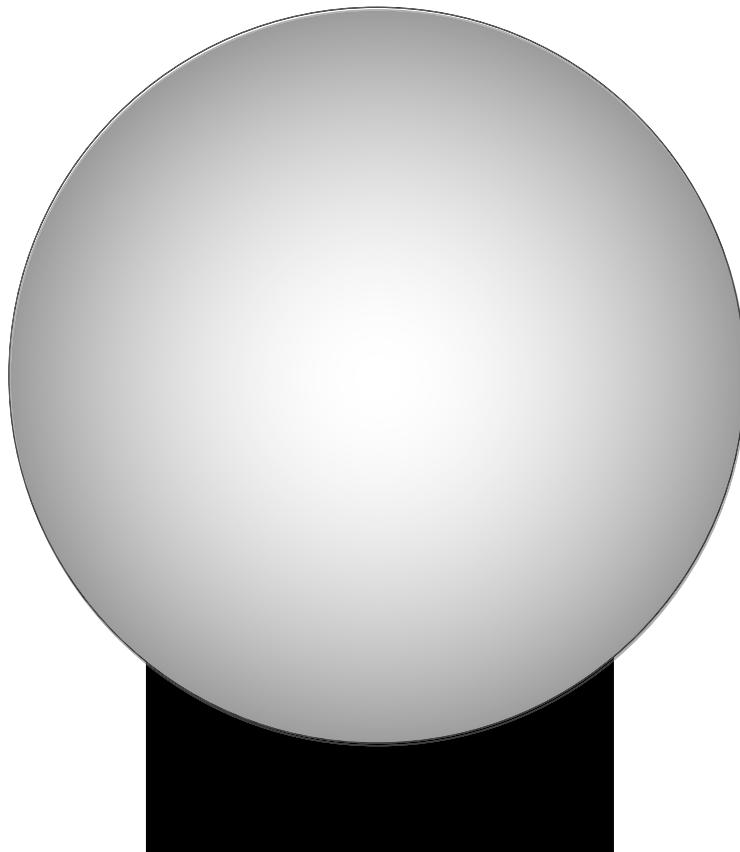


Noah and Tammy are always taking things apart to see how they work. They like to build things too!

Future career? _____

Activity 10 – Seeing Into Your Future

Cut a picture out of a newspaper or magazine showing who you will be or the type of work you will do in the future. Paste the picture in the crystal ball below.



I'm Going to College

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Name _____

Street Address _____ Apt. _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

A visit to college is very important now, because one day I'm going to college.

I am a student at _____ School in the city of _____. Even though I am in the ____ grade, I want to go to college someday. This will be after I graduate from high school in _____. To be admitted into college, I need to stay in school and have good _____. Good _____ are also important, and by doing my _____ I can do my best in class. _____ and _____ are important subjects and will help me do well in college. I am applying for admission to _____ for a day. This will help me to see what college is like.

I want to go to college because:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Student's Signature

Date

I'm Going to College

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Teacher's Name _____

Name of School _____

I am applying to go to college at _____ and will need financial aid to attend. I plan to use this scholarship to pay for my _____ and _____. I know scholarships are special to receive, and I think I deserve this scholarship because: _____

Student's Signature

Date

Office of Financial Aid
1122 State Street

3505

Pay to the order of _____

_____ Dollars

Memo _____

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