

Food Industry

Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board

Overview

In this episode of Career Gates, you will be introduced to the creative and challenging food industry. Employees from Pepperidge Farm, Auntie Anne's and Turkey Hill will show you how they create and produce some of your favorite foods, and why they love their jobs in the food industry.

Discussion/Questions

1. Name some of the characteristics and benefits of working in the food industry. Do any of these appeal to your likes and interests? What type of characteristics would the employees have to possess to enjoy and become successful in this industry?
2. At the Pepperidge Farm plant, one employee mentioned the emphasis on and opportunities for further training and education. How would this impact one's career in this industry? Why would companies in the food industry emphasize the need for continued learning?
3. Because many job opportunities in the food industry are entry level, there is much opportunity for growth within the companies. What types of characteristics will employers look for in those that want to move up in this industry? How can you demonstrate these different traits in your work environment at the entry level?

Activities

1. There are many different aspects of the food industry from the creation of the product to the production, distribution and marketing of it. As a result, there are many different types of jobs as well as levels of involvement. Are there any part-time employment opportunities available for entry level positions? If there are, get involved to discover if this is a career for you. If not, what further requirements must you complete to become eligible? How can you get started on getting closer to a career in this field? Be sure to consider technical, educational and hands-on training requirements.
2. As mentioned in this segment, maintenance is a crucial part to many industries, especially the food industry. It is also an area that is in need of qualified workers. What types of equipment would need to be maintained? What education or training is required to become a skilled maintenance worker? What salaries are offered to skilled maintenance workers? Consider these questions and decide if this could be a possible career option in the food industry that appeals to you.
3. The market for the food industry is constantly advancing and changing. One example was mentioned in the segment on Auntie Anne's. Product and franchise development can be an exciting way to be a part of the food industry and experience many new places and cultures. What local food companies are involved in franchise development? Contact one of these companies and conduct a phone interview with an employee in this department. What type of educational background did they receive to prepare themselves for this career? What are some challenges they face in developing and promoting products to places all over the world? Are there any opportunities for you to become involved? Share your findings with your classmates.

Academic Standards

13.1.11.A. Relate careers to individual interests, abilities, and aptitudes

13.1.11.F. Analyze the relationship between career choices and career preparation opportunities, such as, but not limited to: Associate degree, Baccalaureate degree, Certificate/licensure, Entrepreneurship, Immediate part/full time employment, Industry training, Military training, Professional degree, Registered apprenticeship, Tech Prep, Vocational rehabilitation centers

13.3.11.G. Evaluate the impact of lifelong learning on career retention and advancement.

13.2.11.E. Demonstrate, in the career acquisition process, the application of essential workplace skills/knowledge, such as, but not limited to: Commitment, Communication, Dependability, Health/safety, Laws and regulations (that is Americans With Disabilities Act, child labor laws, Fair Labor Standards Act, OSHA, Material Safety Data Sheets), Personal initiative, Self-advocacy, Scheduling/time management, Team building, Technical literacy, Technology

13.3.11. F. Evaluate strategies for career retention and advancement in response to the changing global workplace.

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