

Lumber Industry

Central PA Workforce Investment Board

Overview

In this segment of Career Gates, students will be introduced to the different career options available in the lumber industry. Employees from Lewis Lumber Products, Conestoga, Shoemaker and Sons, and Pine Creek Lumber share their experiences as well as details that demonstrate why they love working in this industry.

Discussion/Questions

1. One employee discussed the great number of opportunities as well as how easy it is to grow within their company. Why would this be an important aspect in a career? Is it something that would attract you to a specific job position?
2. There were several different types of jobs within the lumber industry described in this segment. Name as many as you can remember and include others you have thought of on your own. Give a brief description of what you think each job would entail. Remember, the lumber industry includes getting the product, producing it into useful parts and then selling it to the customer.
3. Why do you think it is important that loggers as well as other personnel within the lumber industry remain conscientious of the protection of the environment? Is it something that will benefit their company as well as their jobs? Why or why not?

Activities

1. There is no better way to see if you are interested in a career than job shadowing. Use the Internet to find out what lumber companies are in your area, and contact each of them to find out if they have job shadowing opportunities. Be sure to ask what aspect of the job you would be able to shadow as well as any requirements that may be necessary before you begin. Have a list of several questions prepared to ask this person as you shadow him or her throughout the day. Keep a journal of your experience.
2. Working in this industry involves handling many different types of tools and machinery. By researching or contacting local lumber companies, determine just exactly what types of tools and machinery are required. Is there specific training or licensing that is involved with using these items? Is this paid for by the company or must you be certified prior to being hired? What other types of safety requirements and/or regulations does this type of job entail?
3. Wood is all around you in your homes, schools and community; however it looks must different than it did in the forest. Travel through the process of creating products out of lumber. Start your adventure in a particular forest that a lumber company in your area uses trees from and take it through its journey to becoming your kitchen table and chairs. What different steps are involved in processing this tree? Who are the different people that make it into that finished product? Don't forget to include the people who buy the products, create them and then sell them to you, the customer. Create a poster board presentation taking it through the different stages. Which aspect of the process interested you the most? Present your project to the class.

Academic Standards

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

13.1.11.D. Evaluate school-based opportunities for career awareness/preparation, such as, but not limited to: Community service, Graduation/senior project, Internship, Job shadowing, Part-time employment, Registered apprenticeship

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

1.4.11.D. Maintain a written record of activities, course work, experience, honors and interests.

1.6.11.E. Participate in small and large group discussions and presentations.

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