Lesson plan

What is work?

45 Minutes	11-14 Age

Learning outcome(s)

By the end of the lesson students will:

- Outline what work is
- Explain the various reasons why people work
- Describe the different ways people are employed
- Define different work styles and workplaces

Summary of the lesson

In their exploration of work in our society, students will consider what work means and people's motivations to work. An interactive quiz highlights the range of working conditions – as many workers no longer carry out a "typical 9-5 working day", and often have little job security. Group discussion and individual reflection will also build students' awareness of the contemporary working world.

Classroom requirements:

- Interactive board
- Accompanying PowerPoint slides
- Paper and pens for each student

Suitable for students aged:

11-14

Time required to complete tasks:

45 mins max

Skills builder framework

Lesson activities

1. What is work definition

Ask students to read the definition. Do they have any other thoughts; is there more to work than described?

Time Required **2** Min

Resources

PowerPoint Slide 2

2. Why do people work?

Working in groups of four, ask students to write down ideas to answer the question, why do people work?

Each group feeds back five ideas each. Reveal answers on PowerPoint Slide 3.

Time Required **15** Min

Resources

PowerPoint Slide 3
Paper and pen per group

3. Different types of employment

Play higher/lower game with students. Ask students to write down whether they think the next statistic will be higher or lower than the previous one.

Before each question there is a short description to explain that type of employment, and then the answer is revealed.

Different types of employment covered, includes:

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Casual
- Labour hire workers & contractors
- Apprentices & trainees
- Self-employment/entrepreneurship

Time Required **15** Min

Resources

PowerPoint Slides 4-13

Paper and pen per student

4. Different ways of working

Working individually, ask students to rank the different work styles shown on PowerPoint Slide 14 in order of importance to them under three headings: 'would like', 'not sure' and 'would not like'.

Then ask them to do the same ranking exercise for the different workplaces on PowerPoint Slide 15.

Work styles include:

- Working independently
- Seeking success
- Hard working
- Leading others/being managed
- Group work
- Using your own ideas
- Practical/physical/theoretical
- Reflective/amenable
- Conceptual/analytical
- Proactive/explorative
- Wide or narrow focus
- Target driven
- Long hours versus a better work/life balance

Workplace includes:

- Physically active work
- Working outdoors
- Working indoors
- Dealing with the public
- At home
- In an office or company premises
- On site or at a client's premises
- Desk based or more mobile
- In a modern building/office

Differentiation

PowerPoint Slide 16

Using the list of jobs on the next page, ask students to work out what types of employment are possible in each job, and which work styles and workplace apply to each job. This should begin to give students an idea of the types of careers that match their own work preferences.

Differentiation (continued)

- Doctor
- Hairdresser
- Lawyer
- Teacher
- Accountant
- Police Officer
- Engineer
- Vet
- Nurse
- Designer
- Business Manager
- Research Scientist
- Performing Arts
- Motor Mechanic
- Games Designer/Developer
- Bricklayer

Students can refer to the relevant career profiles in their Morrisby account if they need to find out more about these job roles or alternatively, they could use another careers database such as www.yourcareer.gov.au

Extension activities

Encourage students to talk to two adults they know (e.g. a relative, family friend or neighbour) to find out what type of employment they have (e.g. full-time, part-time, self-employed, etc), where they work and what their regular work tasks are. Students reflect on whether what the adults describe to them appeals to them and why. They could write these up as case studies.

Students with a Morrisby account add this activity as a goal to their Morrisby Action Plan.