

LEARNING WITH *Sweetpotatoes*



Mini-Lesson

What is a Career? – Sweetpotato Ag Mag Edition

Grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

Mini-Lesson Focus:

- Careers & Technical Education
- Literacy

What's a career?

A career is an occupation undertaken for a significant period of a person's life and with opportunities for progress and growth, most people describe a career as a job or their work.

1. **Discussion:** What types of careers do you think of the most?

- Say to students, “I wonder if you think about what you will be when you grow up.” *Allow students time to jot thoughts and ideas about careers, maybe even a career they want for themselves one day, draw pictures, write words, phrases, etc.*
- Say to students, “Taking time to look to the future is important and understanding how we get there is the most important part.”
- Say to students, “Today we are going to look at careers related to a vegetable that we often eat.”
- Hold up a sweetpotato.
- Say to students, “What if I told you this sweetpotato needed people in many different careers for it to be brought to consumers like you and me.”
- Say to students, “Today we are going to look into a few careers that will help us better understand how sweetpotatoes are grown and make it to our plate.”

2. With your students, turn to the career portion of the [Sweetpotato Ag Mag](#).

- Students will read about three career pathways related to growing sweetpotatoes.
 - *Sweetpotato Farmer*
 - *Entomologist*
 - *Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent*
- After the mini-lesson, students should expand their learning to focus on core content standards aligned to curriculum.

- Use digital media offered through [sweetpotato career videos](#) to learn about other careers related to sweetpotatoes.
- Say to students, “What other careers might be needed to get sweetpotatoes to the consumer?” Students should share things directly from the videos: *registered dietician, food entrepreneur, chef & restaurant owner, agricultural engineer, school nutrition director, farmer*
- Say to students, “What career pathway interests you the most?” Students will take time to research and answer questions about different career pathways.
- Lesson plans from [sweetpotato curriculum](#)
- Use [agclassroom.org](#) for additional lesson plans
- [Sweetpotato Head Quick Activity](#)

Links:

- **[place holder for NC Careers Ag Mag]**
- [NC Sweetpotato Ag Mag](#)
[Careers in Sweetpotatoes Videos](#)

Standard Subsets Aligned to Mini-Lesson

[See all Career & Technical Educational standards](#)

Writing 3-5, 6-8

Write informative /explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

- a) Organize information and ideas around a topic to plan and prepare to write.
- b) Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.
- c) Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
- d) Use linking words and phrases to connect ideas within categories of information.
- e) Provide a concluding statement or section.
- f) With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing, with consideration to task and purpose.

Thank you
to our partners

