

LEARNING EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

JA Our Nation®

► Work and Career Readiness

JA Our Nation introduces fifth-grade students to the intersection of work readiness and upper elementary grades social studies learning objectives. Through hands-on classroom activities, the learning experience provides students with practical information about the nation's free market system and how it serves as an economic engine for businesses and careers.

JA Our Nation introduces the need for entrepreneurial and innovative thinking to meet the demands of high growth, high demand careers and the concept of globalization in business.

Concepts: businesses, careers, career clusters, collaboration, communication, competition, competitor, consumer, critical thinking, engineering, employees, employers, entrepreneur, free market economy, global economy, goods and services, human capital, innovation, invention, interdependence, job specialization, opportunity cost, product, producer, profit, resume, skills, technology, work readiness

Skills: analyzing occupations, analyzing information, brainstorming, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, decision making, estimating, following written instructions, interpersonal skills, interpreting economic issues, map reading, organizing information, prioritizing, problem solving, reasoning, speaking and listening, STEM skills, teamwork, working cooperatively, working in pairs, written communication



LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Flexible model, designed to support multiple learning environments and accommodate educator-led and volunteer-led opportunities
- Engaging and interactive activities, games, and role-plays that support learning objectives
- Flexible facilitation materials including both kit based and digital assets to accommodate preferences and ease of use
- Includes five 45-minute sessions and one optional supplemental session
- Extended learning activities offered throughout

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview Students:	Objectives Students will be able to:	Activities Students:
SESSION ONE Free to Choose Your Work or Business	Are introduced to the nation's free market system and how it supports businesses and careers.	- Identify the characteristics of a free market economy. - Explain how pricing guides economic decisions.	Price items from their desks. They experience how pricing affects consumers' buying decisions.
SESSION TWO Innovation Nation	Experience how entrepreneurial thinking can spur new businesses and the opportunity for future income.	- Define entrepreneur and entrepreneurship. - Describe resources and how entrepreneurs use them. - Explore STEM skills and the process of innovation.	- Use an engineering design process to reimagine a product or service. - Receive a wristband directing them to an online playable that explores STEM careers and skills.
SESSION THREE Career Quest	Learn about career clusters.	Examine career groupings and the skills necessary for a variety of careers.	Participate in a Career Quest and answer specific questions using information found on the Career Cluster Trading Cards.
SESSION FOUR Get and Keep the Job!	Examine important work-readiness and behavioral skills needed for career success.	Identify the soft skills wanted by today's employers.	Play the Get and Keep the Job! board game to learn about the soft skills employers are looking for.
SESSION FIVE Global Connections	Explore how the United States is connected to the global economy.	- Discuss why businesses specialize and trade. - Define opportunity cost.	In groups, use puzzle cards to assemble products using resources from countries around the world.
OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENT Business Organization	Examine entrepreneurship, free enterprise, and business organization.	Identify three basic ways businesses are organized.	Role-play starting a business and growing it from a sole proprietorship into a corporation.