

# Reach for the Stars: A Health Careers Constellation

## Teacher Activity Page

### Special Instructions:

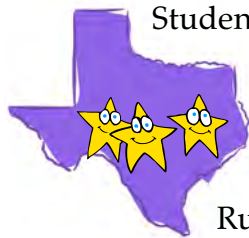
Please note that there is a form that needs to be filled out when the H.O.T. Jobs materials are used. You may access this form online by clicking <http://teachhealthk-12.uthscsa.edu/curriculum/career/career.asp> and may send it online before conducting your lesson. You may also print the form, fill it out and then send it by fax or mail as indicated on the form. Thank you for taking time to do this, the form helps the South Central Area Health Education Center keep track of materials usage and is critical to obtaining funding to keep these materials available. Individual information is not reported, only general information regarding numbers of people using H.O.T. Jobs materials will be reported.

### Activity Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- select relevant information about health-related careers
- use information from text to create a presentation of health-related careers
- present information using good presentation skills
- create symbolic representation of the critical attributes of a health-related career

### Activity Description:



Students will work in groups of two to four in order to explore Texas health-related jobs. They will use information available from the Health Opportunities in Texas (H.O.T. Jobs) website which houses materials written in cooperation between the office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), the three Texas Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program offices, Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the program office of the Health Education Training Centers Alliance of Texas (HETCAT). These materials are well-written and appealing for secondary level students and provide a complete look at the opportunities for a health-related career in Texas.

Students will decide upon group roles as outlined on the activity task card included in the activity. They will select a Health Career scroll from a basket prepared in advance by the teacher (instructions included in the materials list) and will work together to learn about the career, design a constellation that would represent the career and finally present the results of their work to the class.



# Activity Overview



LESSON 1  
ACTIVITY 1

HEALTH CAREERS

## Activity Background:

As is true of many states across the country, Texas is experiencing a shortage of well-trained health care professionals. This shortage provides an opportunity to find and keep good jobs if students plan ahead and obtain needed training. Most students think of “doctor, nurse or dentist” when they think of health careers, but opportunities and ranges of educational requirements are actually much more varied than that perception. This activity will allow students to explore varied opportunities that exist in the Texas health careers job market. They will learn what various jobs entail, the education requirements and possible salary ranges of the careers they study. Knowledge of the opportunities will make goal-setting and future planning more effective.

## Activity Materials:

- ✓ Select careers from the H.O.T. Jobs web site, printed, rolled and tied with ribbon to form Health Career Scrolls
- ✓ Basket or other container to hold the scrolls
- ✓ 20 cut-out stars or star stickers per group  
(A cut-out star pattern is included on the student pages so students can trace them onto colored paper and cut them out)
- ✓ One large piece of butcher paper per group (exact size does not matter)
- ✓ 1 glue stick per group
- ✓ Five colored markers per group
- ✓ Task card with group roles described
- ✓ Optional: Computer lab for technology link
- ✓ Optional – computer station for showing video clips of jobs  
(These clips are available at the following website:

<http://www.southcentraltxahec.org/html/videolibrary.htm>)



## Activity Management Suggestions:

Students can work in smaller groups of two or three by making sure that each task card is given to one student in the group, thus some students will have more than one task card. Monitor the groups carefully to make sure students are on task and are using good group skills. They should be interacting with each other, with no wasted time, to complete the assigned task. Carefully monitor the constellations being created by the groups to make sure they adequately represent the career being researched.



# Activity Overview Continued



LESSON 1  
ACTIVITY 1

HEALTH CAREERS

The two web resources listed at the end of this teacher page are very well done and are very complete. Students can use video clips from the video library as part of their presentation if you have a computer presentation station set up in advance. By including these clips, students will have a chance to hear professionals discuss their jobs. If a computer lab is available, students can do their basic research from the scrolls and then extend their research using information from the H.O.T. Jobs website or other sites approved in advance by you.

### Extension:

In order to extend this lesson, groups can contact a person who works in one of the many health-related careers and can interview that person. Students might ask why the professional chose his or her job, what they do on a daily basis, what they enjoy most about their job, what training they completed to prepare for their job, and what advice they might give to someone considering their career. (**Note:** It is generally not acceptable to ask a person how much money they make – that information can be researched from other sources.)

### References Used:

The office of **Rural Community Affairs (ORCA)**, the three **Texas Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)** program offices, **Texas Education Agency (TEA)**, and the program office of the **Health Education Training Centers Alliance of Texas (HETCAT)** directory of health careers, which can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.texashotjobs.org/>

South Central Texas AHEC video library of Texas health-related careers: <http://www.southcentraltxahec.org/html/videolibrary.htm>



# Activity Overview Continued



LESSON 1  
ACTIVITY 1

HEALTH CAREERS

# Health Careers Constellation Activity

## Student Activity Page



### Introduction:

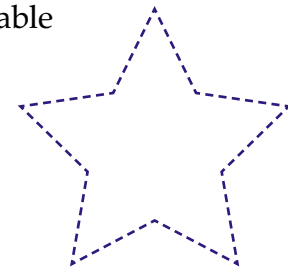
So you want a career that involves helping others, allows use of your creativity and provides a good salary? Consider a career in one of many health fields – health-related jobs often have better benefits and higher salaries than other jobs requiring similar education. In most areas of the country, a shortage of health-care workers exists, so chances of finding and keeping a job are good.

In this activity, you will work with a partner or with a group to explore the many jobs available in the health field. You will draw a “Health Career Scroll” from the basket and become an expert on that particular job. Each group will then share what they have learned with the class so you will learn about the array of health careers available.

### Materials: Each group will need:

The star pattern to the right can be traced if star stickers are not available

- 20 cut-out stars or star stickers
- A large sheet of butcher paper
- Glue stick and a few markers
- Task cards with the following roles described



### Roles:



#### LEADER

- gets the “constellation group” together
- selects a “Health Career Scroll”
- reads the instructions to the group
- assigns jobs to others in the group to prepare a presentation about the constellation symbol and health career
- keeps track of time



#### READER

- reads sections from the health career information sheet as described on the following page



#### MATERIALS MANAGER

- Responsible for getting stars, glue stick, butcher paper and markers
- Distribute materials to the group
- Be sure all materials are clean and organized when the group is finished
- Return all materials to the teacher at the end of the activity



#### RECORDER

- glues down the final arrangement for the constellation
- writes the name of the constellation and the name of the health career on butcher paper



LESSON 1  
ACTIVITY 1

HEALTH CAREERS

## Your Mission: (Check off each step as it is completed.)

1. In order to begin your mission:

- The **LEADER** selects a **health career scroll**
- The **MATERIALS MANAGER** gathers all materials
- The **READER** will read aloud to the group



*the italicized section that names and describes the health career you have selected*



*the parts that discuss: Areas of Specialization, Work Environment and Job Outlook*



*the parts that discuss: Length of Training/Requirements, Licensure/Certification, Salary, and Educational Programs*

2. Now that your group has some information about your health career, think about a **SYMBOL** that could be used to represent this career. Discuss why it would be a good symbol for this health career and be prepared to present it to the class.

3. The **MATERIALS MANAGER** divides the stars equally among the group members. Use the stars from each member of your group to create a **CONSTELLATION** that represents your symbol.

4. The **RECORDER** glues the stars and the group names the constellation. The **RECORDER** writes the constellation name on butcher paper.

5. The **LEADER** divides the information about the health career and constellation among the group members so each person has a part in the presentation.

6. **BEFORE** showing the constellation and sharing the name of the career:

*...the presenter(s) should be prepared to tell the class something about the career – its job description (the kind of work a person would do in this career), the kind of schooling a person needs to enter this career, and other interesting facts.*

*...the presenter(s) should ask the group to guess what the health career is, then tell the group the name of the career.*

7. **THEN**

*...the presenter(s) should show the constellation to the group, tell the group the name of the constellation, and tell why they selected this as a **SYMBOL** for the health career they chose.*

## Extension:

Contact a person who works in one of the many health-related careers and interview that person. You might ask this person why they chose the job, what they do on a daily basis, what training they completed to prepare for their job, and what advice they might give to someone considering their career. (**Note:** It is not generally acceptable to ask a person how much money they make – that information can be researched from other sources.)



LESSON 1  
ACTIVITY 1

HEALTH CAREERS

# Task Cards

## LEADER

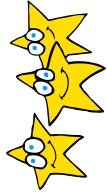


### THE JOB:

- ▶ gets the "constellation group" together
- ▶ selects a "Health Career Scroll"
- ▶ reads the instructions to the group
- ▶ assigns jobs to others in the group to prepare a presentation about the constellation symbol and health career
- ▶ keeps track of time



## READER



### THE JOB:

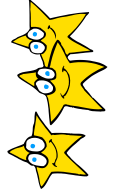
- ▶ reads the following information from the health career information sheet:
  - italicized section that names and describes the health career you have selected
  - areas of specialization, work environment and job outlook
  - length of training/Requirements, Licensure/Certification, Salary & Educational programs

## MATERIALS MANAGER



### THE JOB:

- ▶ responsible for getting stars, glue stick, butcher paper and markers
- ▶ distribute materials to the group
- ▶ be sure all materials are clean and organized when the group is finished
- ▶ return all materials to the teacher at the end of the activity



## RECORDER



### THE JOB:

- ▶ glues down the final arrangement for the constellation
- ▶ writes the name of the constellation and the name of the health career on butcher paper

