



For students

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Learning notes

Discovering Careers

Main Article: [Reaching for Space: Skyrora, the journey to orbit](#)

This edition of Catalyst explores what goes on below the earth's crust to satellites that observe us from space and everything in between. Whether they are investigating the future of solar panels, launching balloons into the stratosphere, or observing how plants cope with pathogens. The authors show the passion and enthusiasm they have for their work.

The team at Skyrora give us an insider's view into what it takes to get their dream jobs. What comes through clearly is their determination to succeed, their enjoyment of what they do and their belief that you can achieve anything if you work hard and believe you can do it.

When looking at career choices it is important to not only know what you want to do and how you will get there, but that your chosen career path will give you long lasting enjoyment and satisfaction.

Learning Task:

Here are three questions to consider and discuss with friends, teachers, and family.

1. Which of the articles appealed to you the most?
2. What about it inspired you?
3. Whose career would you most like to have and why?

Take your learning further:

Find out more about the many STEM related careers in this edition of Catalyst or investigate jobs that appeal to you. Here are some suggestions:

- Research the role of the author whose job appeals to you the most. What do you need to do to have a similar career?
- Find out about the organisations the authors work for or have worked for. Can you see yourself working for those organisations?
- Research a career you are interested in and consider the subjects you need to study in school. Do you work towards a place at university or look for an apprenticeship? Is there another route you could take?
- Ask your teacher or STEM Club leader if they could arrange for STEM Ambassadors to visit and give a talk about their work and how they got their jobs. Maybe you could interview them and hone some of your employability skills.
- Think about getting experience related to the role or project you are interested in such as summer placements or volunteer with similar organisations or projects. If you try it out, you'll know if it's for you.

Take every opportunity to research careers and jobs that interest you, ask around and seek advice. The more you find out, the easier it will be to choose the right path for you. And remember, it's ok to change your mind about a career and try something different.

Take your learning further still:

The following websites have information about careers related to the article topics or are useful general careers guidance. Have a look and see what appeals!

Space Careers – from astrophysicists to doctors to oceanographers to systems engineers: spacecareers.uk

Not exactly rocket science - www.chemistryworld.com/careers/not-exactly-rocket-science/5020.article#

Plant Science, Chartered Institute of Horticulture - www.horticulture.org.uk/grow-careers/plant-science-technology

Marine biology and conservation - www.mcsuk.org/explore-and-discover/career-in-marine-conservation

Careers in renewable energy - www.renewableuk.com/page/Careers

National Careers Service – nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

STEM Learning: www.stem.org.uk/stem-careers