

Career Research Trail

Use several STEM resources to learn how a career works.

7.4.C “research and explore resources such as museums, libraries, professional organizations, private companies, online platforms, and mentors employed in a science, technology, engineering...”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each research resource Jordan uses. Underline one detail near each resource that shows what it can help a student learn about a STEM career.

Jordan Investigates Engineering

- ① Jordan is curious about environmental engineering, a career that uses science and design to protect water, air, and land. To begin exploring, Jordan visits a science museum’s water exhibit. A display explains how engineers test filters and monitor pollution. Jordan writes down one question: “What tools do environmental engineers use in the field?” The museum gives Jordan a concrete view of problems engineers solve, but it does not explain every kind of job or the training needed.
- ② Next, Jordan uses the public library’s career database to compare degree requirements and typical work settings. At home, Jordan reads a professional engineering organization’s website, which describes ethical duties and student programs. Jordan also studies a local water-treatment company’s career page. The company page lists job titles and describes teamwork with operators and technicians. Jordan notices that each source has a purpose. The library helps compare careers, the organization explains the profession, and the company shows one workplace.
- ③ Jordan then joins an online career platform that hosts short interviews with working engineers. One engineer describes collecting samples outdoors, while another manages data in an office. Finally, Jordan talks with Ms. Chen, a civil engineer who volunteers as a school mentor. Ms. Chen answers Jordan’s tool question and suggests asking workers about a normal day, education, and challenges. Jordan records the source, date, and useful details in a research log. By comparing several sources, Jordan can separate broad career facts from details about one person or workplace.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which resource does Jordan use to compare degree requirements and typical work settings?

2 What two kinds of workplace information does the water-treatment company's career page provide?

3 How does talking with Ms. Chen help Jordan investigate the career differently from watching interviews on the online career platform?

4 Why does Jordan record the source, date, and useful details, then compare several sources?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one STEM career you want to investigate. Plan research with three different types of resources by naming each resource, writing one question for it, and stating what career information it could provide.

STEM CAREER	RESOURCE TO EXPLORE	QUESTION TO ASK	CAREER INFORMATION IT COULD PROVIDE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each research resource Jordan uses. Underline one detail near each resource that shows what it can help a student learn about a STEM career. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which resource does Jordan use to compare degree requirements and typical work settings?	The public library's career database.
2	What two kinds of workplace information does the water-treatment company's career page provide?	It lists job titles and describes teamwork with operators and technicians.
3	How does talking with Ms. Chen help Jordan investigate the career differently from watching interviews on the online career platform?	Ms. Chen answers Jordan's specific tool question and suggests questions to ask workers. The platform provides interviews describing different engineers' work.
4	Why does Jordan record the source, date, and useful details, then compare several sources?	This helps Jordan separate broad career facts from details about one person or workplace.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

STEM CAREER	RESOURCE TO EXPLORE	QUESTION TO ASK	CAREER INFORMATION IT COULD PROVIDE
Cybersecurity analyst	Library career database	What education or certifications are common?	Degree and certification requirements
Cybersecurity analyst	Professional computing organization website	What ethical duties guide this career?	Professional responsibilities and standards
Cybersecurity analyst	School mentor who works in technology	What tasks do you do during a normal day?	Details about daily work and challenges

Accept any STEM career and three different resource types that fit the standard, such as a museum, library, professional organization, company, online platform, or mentor. Each row should include a researchable question and a reasonable type of career information the resource could provide.