

INVESTIGATING CAREER CLUSTERS



Construction

What Is the Construction Cluster?

Occupations in the construction cluster involve building, repairing, and modernizing homes and other kinds of buildings. Construction workers are grouped into three general areas: the structural, the finishing, and the mechanical.

Skills Needed

math skills, mechanical drawing skills, building skills, physical strength and stamina, manual dexterity, and ability to read blueprints

THE FACTS	Types of Careers in This Cluster	Work Description	Career Outlook	Education
	Stonemason	Build stone walls, set stone exteriors and floors for buildings	Good	Voc-Tech diploma, On-the-job training
	Carpenter	Cut, fit, and assemble wood and other materials in the construction of buildings, highways, and other structures	Good	Voc-Tech diploma, On-the-job training
	Electrician	Install, connect, test, and maintain electrical systems	Slower than average	High-school diploma, apprenticeship
	Sheetmetal worker	Make, install, and maintain air-conditioning, ventilation, roofs, siding, and other building parts from metal sheets	Good	Apprenticeship
	Construction inspector	Examine the construction of buildings and other structures to ensure compliance with regulations	Faster than average	High-school diploma, construction experience
	Tilesetter	Apply tile to floor, walls, and ceilings	Slower than average	Apprenticeship, On-the-job training

ACTIVITY

Your goal: Examine the tools of the trades.

What to think about: Do you like tools? Do you like to work outdoors doing physical labor? If you do, the construction industry may be for you.

What to do: Which items below fit with this career cluster? Put a check in the column marked *yes* if an item fits in the construction cluster or *no* if it does not fit.

(Use boxes for check marks)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
hammer			tomato seeds		
sewing machine			paint brush		
pipe wrench			apple pie		
false teeth			fishing pole		
scuba gear			screwdriver		
scalpel			lawn mower		
trowel			microphone		
shovel			ballet shoes		
measuring tape			jackhammer		

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What do you think of the jobs in this cluster? Do you think you might like to work in one of them? If so, which one?

2. How do the people who work in this cluster help you, your family, and your community? Explain in one paragraph.
