

# Careers in the NFL

*Field Trip/Distance Learning Program*



## **Instructions:**

Please use the following lesson to help prepare your students for a more meaningful and interactive educational experience.

## **“Field Trip/Distance Learning” Experience Outline:**

5 minutes – Welcome

20 minutes – Discussion on Careers in the NFL

15 minutes – Careers Video

10 minutes – Question and Answers



# **Subject: Family and Consumer Sciences**

## **Lesson Title: Careers in the NFL**

### **Goals/Objectives:**

- Students will:
  - Identify football related careers.
  - Conduct an exploratory interview to get an insider’s view of a career in football.
  - Investigate career opportunities that reflect their interests, abilities, and personality.
  - Utilize various sources of career information.

### **National Standards met:**

- **Family and Consumer Sciences:** Career, Community, and Family Connections: 1-Integrate multiple life roles and responsibilities in family, work, and community settings.

### **Methods/Procedures:**

#### **Pre-Visit Activity**

- Before the “field trip or distance learning” experience, students will brainstorm careers related to the NFL by completing the following activities (pages 5-7):
  - Careers in the NFL from A to Z
  - Football Careers Scramble
  - Football Careers Matching
- Teacher can also go beyond the careers covered in these worksheets by having an open discussion with the class on other NFL related careers or by having the students research more in depth some of these careers.

#### **Visit Goals/Objective**

- During the “field trip or distance learning” experience, students will:
  - Learn more in depth about the variety of careers in the NFL.
  - Learn more about the variety of careers at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
  - Learn what education is needed to attain these high profile positions.
  - Learn how to position themselves for a career in the NFL.
  - Get a behind the scenes look at careers with the Pittsburgh Steelers by viewing a 14-minute video.
- If on a field trip, students should complete the “Career Expedition” scavenger hunt. Students then should work in pairs to complete this “Career Investigation” activity: One student should pretend to be the reporter for the local newspaper and the other a football player with a display in the HOF. Students should prepare 5 – 10 questions/answers about



the player's career in the NFL based on the information provided in the display. Have students role-play the interview.

### Post-Visit Activity

- After the “field trip or distance learning” experience, in pairs or small groups, have students choose one of the careers they have learned about and write a one page narrative of a typical workday during the season for a person with that career. Share response with the class.
- Discuss with students the probability of becoming an NFL football player. According to the NFL Players Association (NFLPlayers.com): *Only .2% of the high school seniors who play football every year will make an NFL roster.*
- Discuss with students the following statistics related to an NFL players careers according to NFLPlayers.com:
  - *The average length of an NFL career is 3 ½ seasons. There are some exceptional players who have long careers that extend over 12 seasons. Players leave because of injury, self-induced retirement, or being cut by the team.*
  - *The importance of NFL players' preparation for a second career: Football players make more money than most people, but they're only making it for an average of 3 ½ years. Most players must invest their money and make plans for another career. A 30 year old man is considered old in football but he is young in life so it important to be prepared.*
  - *The percent of NFL players with a college degree: “All of our research shows that players with college degrees tend to make more money during their careers, play longer and make better decisions,” says Michael Haynes, Vice President of Player and Employee Development. Players with degrees earn 20 to 30% more than players who don't have degrees. Their career lasts about 50% longer. The theory is that players with a degree have stronger careers is that players who show the intelligence, concentration, and mental discipline to complete a degree show these qualities on the field more. Doing well in school from an early age also helps players develop the concentration they will need to memorize plays and avoid eligibility problems in high school and college.*
- Resources are available to help players transition to a second career or to further their education: *Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue created the Player Development Program in 1991 to help players prepare for life after football. The NFL Player Development (department) is a resource that offers assistance that is divided into four areas: continuing education, financial education, career development, and player assistance services.*
- Students should review the website:  
<http://footballjobs.teamworkonline.com/teamwork/jobs/default.cfm> to learn about the variety of position openings available in the NFL. Students should take notes from this site



to learn more what education background, skills, and tools are needed to obtain one of these highly sought after positions.

- A popular degree for many in the sports industry is Sport Management. Students interested in this degree can view the colleges/universities around the globe that offer this as an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral:  
<http://www.nassm.com/InfoAbout/SportMgmtPrograms>.
- After reviewing this information, students should invite people to class who are in or retired from careers related to football (i.e. sportswriter, radio or TV broadcaster, coach, advertising agency, artist, player, retailer, sports statistician, referee, etc). Brainstorm a list of questions to ask including how they began their careers, what training, education, and qualifications they needed, and any personal interest stories.
- Have students complete the Career Future worksheet (pages 8-9). This will allow the students to choose and further explore a particular career that interests them. Students can use some of the website provided to assist with their research.
- Teachers could then have the student's interview a person (in person or by telephone) who works in the area the students have chosen.
- Have each student develop a résumé that could be used to apply for the career in which he/she is interested for the Career Future activity.
- Have each student create a collage to illustrate the career in which he/she is interested for the Career Future activity. Make a class scrapbook of dream careers.

### Materials:

- Career worksheets
- Career reference books including:
  - Dictionary of Occupational Titles
  - Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)
  - Guide for Occupational Exploration
  - Occupational Outlook Quarterly
- Computer program "Ohio Career Information System (OCIS)"
- Internet access to career/job/vocation sites such as:
  - [www.bls.gov/](http://www.bls.gov/)
  - [www.nflplayers.com](http://www.nflplayers.com)
  - [www.nfl.com](http://www.nfl.com)
  - [www.sportsjobs.com](http://www.sportsjobs.com)
  - [www.nflhs.com](http://www.nflhs.com)
  - <http://footballjobs.teamworkonline.com/teamwork/jobs/default.cfm>
  - <http://www.nassm.com/InfoAbout/SportMgmtPrograms>

### Assessment:

- Students will be assessed on performance and accuracy of responses.



## Careers in the NFL from A to Z

There are hundreds of careers related to the NFL. See if you can think of one careers for each letter in the alphabet.

A \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

Q \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

U \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

V \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

W \_\_\_\_\_

J \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

Y \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

Z \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

What additional jobs can you think of related to the sport of football?

N \_\_\_\_\_



# NFL Careers Scramble

Unscramble the following NFL related careers

1. HACCO \_\_\_\_\_

2. SEGINRED \_\_\_\_\_

3. NRLSJTUOIA \_\_\_\_\_

4. ROPAHOPGHTER \_\_\_\_\_

5. HCATRCIET \_\_\_\_\_

6. NOWRE \_\_\_\_\_

7. TENARIR \_\_\_\_\_

8. CTSUO \_\_\_\_\_

9. CINTSAATISTI \_\_\_\_\_

10. GERNIENE \_\_\_\_\_

11. NEMPIQTUE GNAMARE \_\_\_\_\_

12. EFREREE \_\_\_\_\_

13. POMRTORE \_\_\_\_\_

14. RECNUONNA \_\_\_\_\_

15. ENTAG \_\_\_\_\_



## NFL Careers Matching

- \_\_\_\_\_ Players Agent
- \_\_\_\_\_ Game Official
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sports Photographer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sports Psychologist
- \_\_\_\_\_ Athletic Director
- \_\_\_\_\_ Facilities Manager
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sports Promoter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Official Statistician
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scout
- \_\_\_\_\_ Athletic Trainer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sports Nutritionist
- A. Business executive with a product to sell to sports fans.
- B. Requires a keen eye, fast reflexes, stamina, self-control, and knowledge of rules and ability to make quick and correct decisions.
- C. Has a strong science background with an emphasis on anatomy and physical therapy for athletes.
- D. Makes sure the stadiums and arenas are operable and safe for both players and fans.
- E. Coordinates and manages all the physical education and intercollegiate sports programs at colleges and universities.
- F. Participates in contract negotiations, arranges personal appearances and sets up endorsements for commercial products.
- G. Advises athletes on how to eat to perform their best.
- H. Expert in mathematics, bookkeeping, statistics and operating a computer.
- I. Artist who uses a camera to capture the single action of an individual's successes as well as defeats.
- J. Evaluates potential players as well as next week's opponents.
- K. Helps athletes cope with pressure.



## Career Future

Being an NFL football player can offer a ticket to fame and fortune. However, only a small percentage of athletes actually achieve this status. Even those who do must someday retire and begin new careers. Education is the key to the future.

Think about the types of NFL career possibilities that exist for a person with your interests, abilities, and personality. Project yourself into the future and choose one NFL occupation that interests you. Answer the following questions using any resources available (parents, relatives, career mentors, teachers, guidance counselors, Internet and printed material).

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the job description?
2. What are the working conditions for this job?
3. What are the skills and abilities needed to succeed in this job?
4. What interests and personality characteristics are needed to succeed in this job?
5. What classes would be good to take in high school to help with this job?
6. What training after high school is needed for this job? How long does it take?



7. What is the average starting salary for this job?
  
8. What are the opportunities for advancement in this job?
  
9. What is the employment outlook for this job?
  - A. Increasing about as much as average
  - B. Increasing more slowly than average
  - C. Increasing more quickly than average
  - D. Decreasing
  
10. What are some related jobs that might be of interest to explore?
  
11. What did you like about this job?
  
12. What didn't you like about this job?
  
13. Now that you know more about the career, is it still something you would like to pursue? Yes/no and why?

