

Notes for Teachers

This is intended as a tool to get your pupils to think about their career choices, (whether they be science or non science related) using examples of real people and their thoughts and lives, as part of a PHSE programme.

They will need to have access to the web while they are answering these questions.

The Meet Your Match Database is in the Next Steps section of the Planet Science Website. You'll find it on the menu if you go to www.planet-science.com/nextsteps

There are three sheets, and they do build up to the last question, but each sheet could be done on a separate occasion.

It might be worth stressing that there is no 'right' answer to most of the questions. It is a chance for them to explore what kind of career choices they might make and why.

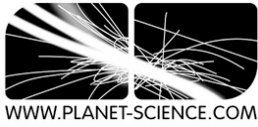
It is aimed at years 8 and 9, however you might feel it is appropriate for older or younger pupils, depending on their level of maturity and how much career guidance they have already had.

Allow an average of half an hour per sheet for thorough reading and thoughtful responses.

Pupils who finish the tasks early may like to be given the fun challenge of doing the 'Suits You Quiz', also found on the menu of www.planet-science.com/nextsteps and then choosing their ideal job from all those on offer, giving a reason why.

They might also be given the task of looking through the database to find suitable jobs for a group of their friends, stating the job and why they chose it for each person.

They might also write about their own career ambition and the lifestyle they imagine that choice might lead to.



Part One

INSPIRATION and ENCOURAGEMENT

1) Does your family background determine what your career might be?

Please look through the Meet Your Match database at some of the scientists. Use any of the first six search methods. Name two scientists who have come from scientific families, and two who didn't.

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Now please scroll to the question 'Your family background' for Dr Axel E.J. Miller and Dr Simon Carr. (You will find them both in earth science section – look using search method 1, by subject area). Then look at the same question for Fiona Crawford in the health and medicine section and Mike McCartney in the engineering section.

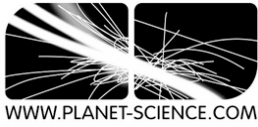
2) Is it possible to achieve your goals without encouragement from anyone? Discuss using these four scientists from the Meet Your Match Database.

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3) Decide how important each of these groups are in helping you decide on a career ambition by giving them a percentage score.

There are no right or wrong answers, but the percentages must add up to 100!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Parents.....% | Teachers.....% |
| Professional Careers Advisors.....% | Media (Radio/TV/Web etc) |
| Your own instinct.....% | Friends.....% |
| Other family.....% | Other adults you look up to.....% |



4) Decide how important each of these groups in motivating you towards your goals by giving them a percentage score.

Parents.....%

Teachers.....%

The Media.....%

Yourself.....%

Friends.....%

Other family.....%

5) Try to imagine three reasons each why Fiona Crawford's family and Mike McCartney's didn't encourage them to pursue their ambitions. HINT: They won't all be 'bad' or negative reasons!

Fiona Crawford

1).....
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2).....
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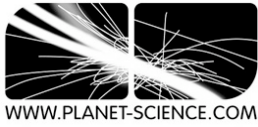
3).....
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Mike McCartney

1).....
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2).....
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3).....
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Part Two

LIFESTYLE CHOICES

1) Please list your ideas of what makes a good job.

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Please scroll down to the question 'Would you consider you have a good standard of living / work-life balance' for the following scientists: Amanda Lynnes (ecology section) Dr Paul Stevens (physics) and Gareth Mitchell (science communication).

2) Describe what these science people have in common.

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Now please scroll down to the question 'What do you love about your job' for Dr Matthew H. Todd (chemistry).

3) How many reasons does Matthew give for loving his job?

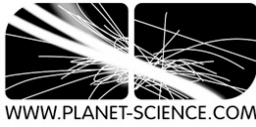
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4) Which of these reasons would also be important to you if you were looking for a job, and why?

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5) Read your own answer to question 1) and 3) on this sheet. Can you think of any job that would give you all these things? (It doesn't have to be a science job.)

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Now please scroll down to the questions 'What do you love about your job?', 'Would you consider that you have a good standard of living / work-life balance' and 'How do you switch off from work?' for Dr C Giles Miller (Earth Science)

6) Below, imagine the diary entries for a day for Giles and one of his city friends he writes about. Write in the spaces what you imagine each of them would be doing at the following points throughout the day.

Dr Giles Miller

City Worker (Finance sector)

8.30am.....

8.30am.....

9.30am.....

9.30am.....

10am – 1.30pm

10am – 1.30pm

1.30pm.....

1.30pm.....

Afternoon.....

Afternoon.....

Leave work.....pm

Leave work.....pm

Evening spent.....

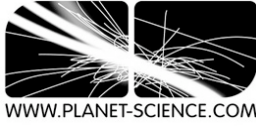
Evening spent.....

7) Giles' friends in the city probably earn twice as much as him, or more with bonuses. Would you swap jobs? Why? Or why not?

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8) How do you think you'd decide what your level of 'enough' money is?

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Part Three

CAREER PATHS

Please read Joanna Law's whole profile (engineering/technology).

1) What is unusual about Joanna's career? Do you admire her choices?

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2) What do you think are the pros and cons of being a mature student?

Pros (Good things)

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Cons (Bad things)

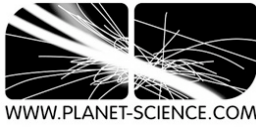
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Now please read about the job paths of John Turner (Physics section) and Jeremy Bass (Physics section) by reading their answers to the 'Can you briefly describe your job path?'



3) What are the differences in the way they went about forming their careers?

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4) So, you can plan a career by following a classic path, or see what happens and follow your nose, taking advantage of opportunities and contacts as you go along. Which do you think you'd be most likely to adopt as an approach to your career and why?

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5) Now please read about Isgard Bright-Roberts (Botany). As you can see she is a young woman at the beginning of her career. Using information you have learned from other people in the Meet Your Match Database:

What jobs / education do you think she might take on in her future career path?

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Now please look around in the database at a random selection of scientists to see if they've answered the question 'What would be your words of wisdom to anyone who wants to do the same job as you?' (Near the bottom of the listed questions, if they have answered) Look at six at least.

6) What are your own 'words of wisdom' to yourself, (or to a friend) on how to find or follow your own career path.

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