

Our Awesome Workers: A Mini-Unit on Labor Day

Materials Needed:

- Large sheet of paper or whiteboard
 - Markers or crayons
 - Construction paper (various colors)
 - Child-safe scissors
 - Glue sticks
 - Optional: old magazines, stickers, glitter, and other craft supplies
 - Optional: A few simple props for charades (e.g., a toy hammer, a book, a whisk)
 - Book: "Someone Builds the Dream" by Lisa Wheeler or a similar book about different jobs
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Lesson Plan Details

Subject: Social Studies, Art, Language Arts

Time Allotment: 45-60 minutes (can be split into two shorter sessions)

Target Students: Amias (7) and Amara (6-10)

1. Learning Objectives

By the end of this mini-unit, Amias and Amara will be able to:

- **Identify** at least five different jobs that people do in our community.
 - **Explain** in their own words that Labor Day is a holiday to say "thank you" to workers.
 - **Create** a piece of artwork that shows appreciation for a specific type of worker.
 - **Describe** a job they might like to have when they grow up, including what that worker does.
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2. Lesson Activities & Procedure

Part 1: The Job Guessing Game (10 minutes - Engagement)

1. **Introduction:** "Today, we're going to talk about something super important: jobs! A job is the work someone does to help others and earn money. Labor Day is a special holiday to celebrate all those hardworking people. But first, let's play a game!"
 2. **Activity - Job Charades:**
 - Take turns acting out a job without using any words.
 - Use simple props if you like. Examples:
 - Pretend to bake a cake (Baker)
 - Pretend to drive a bus (Bus Driver)
 - Pretend to read a book to a class (Teacher)
 - Pretend to build something with a hammer (Construction Worker)
 - Cheer for each other after each correct guess!
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Part 2: Who Are Our Community Helpers? (15 minutes - Exploration & Explanation)

1. **Read Aloud:** Read a book like "Someone Builds the Dream" or another book about workers. Pause to look at the pictures and ask questions like, "What is this person's job?" or "What tools are they using?"
2. **Brainstorm Web:**
 - Take out the large piece of paper or whiteboard. Write "JOBS" in a circle in the middle.
 - Ask Amias and Amara: "Who are the workers we see in our town? Who are the workers in our family?"
 - Write down every answer they give, drawing lines out from the center circle. Help them think of different categories: people who help us stay healthy (doctors, dentists), people who help us learn (teachers, librarians), people who build things (construction workers), people who make food (farmers, chefs), and people who keep us safe (firefighters, police officers).
3. **Connect to Labor Day:** "Look at all these amazing jobs! Every single one of these workers helps our world go 'round. Labor Day is our special day to stop and say, 'Thank you for all your hard work!' It's like a birthday party for all the jobs."

Part 3: Parade of Professions Craft (15-20 minutes - Application & Creativity)

1. **Introduction:** "Let's make something to celebrate our favorite workers! We are going to create a 'Thank You' card or a special picture for a worker."
2. **Creative Activity:**
 - Each child chooses one worker they want to thank from the brainstorm web. It could be a mail carrier, a veterinarian, a trash collector, or anyone else!
 - Using construction paper, scissors, glue, and markers, they will create a picture of that worker in action.
 - Encourage them to add details. What is the worker wearing? What tools do they use? Where do they work?
 - They can write "Thank You!" on their artwork. Help with spelling as needed.

Part 4: My Dream Job! (5-10 minutes - Wrap-up & Assessment)

1. **Show and Tell:** Have Amias and Amara present their "Parade of Professions" artwork. Ask them to explain who they chose and why that job is important.
2. **Dream Job Discussion:** Ask them, "If you could have any job in the whole world when you grow up, what would it be and why?" Encourage them to be creative—they can even invent a new job! This is a fun way to see if they understand the concept of what a "job" is.

3. Differentiation & Inclusivity

- **For Younger Learners (Ages 6-7):**
 - Focus more on the drawing and coloring part of the craft. Pre-cut some shapes if needed.
 - Keep the "Dream Job" description simple (e.g., "I want to be a firefighter to help people.")
 - Use lots of pictures and gestures during the discussion.
- **For Older Learners (Ages 8-10):**
 - Encourage them to write a full sentence or two on their artwork, such as, "Thank you, firefighters, for being so brave."
 - For the "Dream Job" activity, ask them to list 2-3 tools that person would need or skills they would have to learn.
 - They could do a mini-research project: look up one fact about the history of Labor Day or a specific profession.

4. Assessment (Informal)

Learning will be assessed through observation and participation:

- **Discussion Participation:** Did they actively contribute ideas to the job web and in the "Dream Job" discussion?
- **Artwork & Explanation:** Does their final craft represent a specific worker? Can they explain why that worker's job is helpful?
- **Understanding of Concept:** Can they articulate, in their own simple way, that Labor Day is about thanking people for their work?