

Finding Career Paths at the Santa Cruz County Fair



For Grades 3-5

The following activities are designed to give you ideas to use with your class before and after your visit to The Santa Cruz County Fair. The activities can be integrated into your curriculum, used as mini-lessons, or incorporated into a unit if it works with what you are teaching.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES PRE-FAIR

1. Read the HISTORY OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR and discuss with your class. Ask students to share past experiences they have had at the fair. Be sure to emphasize the difference between a fair and a carnival.
2. Divide the class into groups and ask each group to brainstorm and compile a list of what they would like to see at the fair. Have each group report to the class what things on their list they did or did not see during their visit to the fair.
3. Bring articles from the local newspapers that tell about the upcoming fair. The news section on our website is a great resource to find recent articles. Visit us at: <http://santacruzcountyfair.com/news.cfm> Discuss newspaper reporting: How does the reporter get information and pictures about the fair? Plan to “be reporters” and write articles after visiting the fair. You may wish to give the reporters “assignments” so that all buildings visited will be reported on. Have students take notes and perhaps conduct a short interview at the fair.
4. Brainstorm A Career:
How many different occupations can the class think of, that could be found at the Santa Cruz County Fair? Discuss how careers can be divided into 7 Career Pathways.
 - Agriculture;
 - Arts,
 - Communications and Human Services;
 - Business;
 - Home Economics;
 - Engineering;
 - Industrial Technology and Health Sciences.

Have the class sort the occupations brainstormed into the 7 Career Pathways.

PRE/POST-FAIR

1. Choose an appropriate book from the agriculture book list on our website in the education sections and read it to the class. Read any poems or stories about animals or other topics related to the fair.

2. Pick a fruit or vegetable and have the class or groups study the item for one minute. (You should have the item available in whole and cut form). Ask students to brainstorm adjective words, which describe the fruit or vegetable and record responses on a chart. Be sure to have enough of the item available so that each student can then feel, smell, and taste it. Using the words on the chart and their experiences with the item, have each student write a complete description of it, including how it looks, feels, smells, and tastes. Students may then illustrate with a picture or border on their description.

POST-FAIR

1. Brainstorm with the class what makes an article interesting, accurate, etc. Have each student write an article telling about The Santa Cruz County Fair, and then illustrate with a caption. Make a class newspaper using all student articles and illustrations. Give the newspaper a name, date, editor, etc. As the year progresses, other editions of the paper can be made after other trips or experiences. If computers are available to your class, this is a great activity for practicing skills and creating a finished product.

2. Creative Writing: Have each student pick an animal they saw at the fair. Pretend the animal can talk, and write a creative story from the standpoint of the animal.

EXAMPLE: My Day at the Fair, by Molly Moo

3. Write a persuasive paragraph or letter to parents convincing them to attend The Santa Cruz County Fair.

4. Brainstorm A Career Part II: Discuss what kinds of jobs the students saw people engaged in at the fair.

What jobs were the students surprised to see?

What kinds of jobs were not found?

Were there any career paths not represented?

What career path was most represented?

What do people who work at The Santa Cruz County Fair do during non-fair months?

Post Fair (cont)

5. Research: Have students write a paragraph about The Santa Cruz County Fair using the following terms: students, maintenance, theme, manager, exhibits, careers, education, tour, entertainment and community. Write a mini-report on one of the following topics:

What do people do to earn a salary at the fair?

How do people volunteer their time to the community at the fair?

My favorite job at the fair would be... If I could volunteer at the fair I would...

6. Searching For A Job: Using the student's experience at The Santa Cruz County Fair, list 3 jobs where people work with each of the following criteria:

1) Requires a college degree

2) Requires a uniform

3) Sits down most of the time

4) Uses technology

5) Works with people

6) People work alone

7) No college degree required

8) Does not require a uniform

9) Spends most of the time standing

10) Does not use technology

11) Works with machines

12) People work as a team