

## Skill Focus: Curiosity

MAN-FMMS-1\*

Standard: 1 Demonstrate employability skills required by business and industry.

- 1.1 Communicate effectively through writing, speaking, listening, reading, and interpersonal abilities.
- 1.2 Demonstrate creativity by asking challenging questions and applying innovative procedures and methods
- 1.3 Exhibit critical thinking and problem-solving skills to locate, analyze and apply information in career planning and employment situations.
- 1.4 Model work readiness traits required for success in the workplace including integrity, honesty, accountability, punctuality, time management, and respect for diversity.

\*Georgia Department of Education All Rights Reserved Manufacturing Career Cluster

*This lesson offers three-time sequences for instructional delivery: 15 minutes; 30 minutes; or 55 minutes.*

### 15 minutes Lesson Plan (Resources needed: Curiosity video)

#### Objectives

TLW Discuss the reasons curiosity is a benefit for employees

TLW Explain how curiosity can be used in their career path

#### Instruction

1. Begin the lesson by asking the question, “what is curiosity?” (large group discussion)
2. Introduce the video by saying, “in this short video, we are going to learn how the skill of curiosity can benefit us as employees.”
3. Write the question on the board, “In our careers, how can curiosity benefit us?”
4. Watch the Curiosity Videos found at [Sector Employability Skills - YouTube](#). A list of 6 specific videos, that are each 2 minutes in length, is found on the Resources Page of this Lesson Plan Packet.
5. Return to the question written on the board and lead a large group discussion with students sharing their answers to the question, “In our careers, how can curiosity benefit us?”
6. Ask students to turn to a partner and discuss how curiosity skills apply today.
7. Ask students to share with the class.

*See “Alternate Kinesthetic Activities for Curiosity” at the end of this lesson plan packet for additional activities for extra time.*

## Skill Focus: Curiosity

### 30 minutes Lesson Plan (Resources needed: Curiosity video, The Curious Case of Curiosity in Career Exploration, Bookmark worksheet)

#### Objectives

- TLW Discuss the reasons curiosity is a benefit for employees
- TLW Explain how curiosity can be a benefit as an employee
- TLW Explain how curiosity can be used to improve work performance
- TLW Discuss the value of enjoyable work life.
- TLW Connect the idea of performance, work life, and curiosity.

#### Instruction

1. Begin the lesson by asking the question, “what is curiosity?” (large group discussion)
2. Introduce the video by saying, “in this short video, we are going to learn how the skill of curiosity can benefit us as employees.”
3. Write the question on the board, “In our careers, how can curiosity benefit us?”
4. Watch the Curiosity Videos found at [Sector Employability Skills - YouTube](#). A list of 6 specific videos, that are each 2 minutes in length, is found on the Resources Page of this Lesson Plan Packet.
5. Return to the question written on the board and lead a large group discussion with students sharing their answers to the question, “In our careers, how can curiosity benefit us?”
6. Ask students to turn to a partner and discuss how curiosity skills apply today.
7. Ask students to share with the class.
8. Pass out copies of the reading passage (or share the link), The [Benefits of Curiosity in the Workplace](#), along with the Bookmark activity (see activities section)
9. Instruct the students to read the short blog about how curiosity can help them become better employees. As they read, students are to answer the guided reading questions on the bookmark.
10. After students complete reading the passage and answering the questions on the bookmark. Place students in small groups (or a large group) and discuss the following questions:
  1. According to the reading passage, what is the definition of curiosity?
  2. What are the benefits of being a curious employee?
  3. Why is the connection between being curious about your job and employee performance and improved work life?

*See “Alternate Kinesthetic Activities for Curiosity” at the end of this lesson plan packet for additional activities for extra time.*

## Skill Focus: Curiosity

### 55 minutes Lesson Plan

(Resources needed: Curiosity video, The Curious Case of Curiosity in Career Exploration, BookMark worksheet, License to Snoop Reading Passage, Snooping Skill Set Graphic Organizer)

#### Objectives

- TLW Discuss the reasons curiosity is a benefit for employees
- TLW Explain how curiosity can be a benefit as an employee
- TLW Explain how curiosity can be used to improve work performance
- TLW Discuss the value of an enjoyable work life.
- TLW Connect the idea performance, work life and curiosity.
- TLW Identify skill sets needed to be curious the Snoops reading passage
- TLW Identify personal traits needed for the chosen career or determine how to obtain those skill sets

#### Instruction

1. Begin the lesson by asking the question, “what is curiosity?” (large group discussion)
2. Introduce the video by saying, “in this short video, we are going to learn how the skill of curiosity can benefit us as employees.”
3. Write the question on the board, “In our careers, how can curiosity benefit us?”
4. Watch the Curiosity Videos found at [Sector Employability Skills - YouTube](#). A list of 6 specific videos, that are each 2 minutes in length, is found on the Resources Page of this Lesson Plan Packet.
5. Return to the question written on the board and lead a large group discussion with students sharing their answers to the question, “In our careers, how can curiosity benefit us?”
6. Ask students to turn to a partner and discuss how curiosity skills apply today.
7. Ask students to share with the class.
8. Pass out copies of the reading passage (or share the link), The [Benefits of Curiosity in the Workplace](#), along with the Bookmark activity (see activities section)
9. Instruct the students to read the short blog about how curiosity can help them become better employees. As they read, students are to answer the guided reading questions on the bookmark.
10. After students complete reading the passage and answering the questions on the bookmark. Place students in small groups (or a large group) and discuss the following questions:
  1. According to the reading passage, what is the definition of curiosity?
  2. What are the benefits of being a curious employee?
  3. Why is the connection between being curious about your job and employee performance and improved work life?
11. Pass out the reading passage (or provide the link) for [The Most Important Curiosity Skills \(With Examples\)](#)

- a. Students will identify the skill sets needed as an employee in their chosen career (they can either predict or use the computer to research) and write responses on the Snoop Graphic Organizer.
- b. Students will identify the skill set they currently possess or will need to learn (and where to do so) for that career.

*See “Alternate Kinesthetic Activities for Curiosity” at the end of this lesson plan packet for additional activities for extra time.*

# Resources

Lesson Plan(s)

PowerPoint

Videos: [Sector Employability Skills - YouTube](#)

CURIOSITY VIDEO LINKS	EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS DEMONSTRATED IN EACH VIDEO
<a href="#">CURIOSITY WHITECO FreudenbergNOK 21</a>	CURIOSITY
<a href="#">CURIOSITYDESIRETOLEARN FORSYTHN CarrollDanielConst 21</a>	CURIOSITY
<a href="#">MOTIVATIONCURIOSITY FORSYTHS GW AutomationDirect 21</a>	CURIOSITY, DESIRE TO LEARN, MOTIVATION
<a href="#">CURIOSITY FORSYTHLambert NextStep 21</a>	CURIOSITY, DRIVE, FOCUS
<a href="#">CURIOSITYDESIRETOLEARNMOTIVATION HABERSHAM Scovill 21</a>	CURIOSITY, DESIRE TO LEARN, MOTIVATION
<a href="#">CUROSITY GVILLE KMA 21.mov</a>	CURIOSITY, PROBLEM SOLVING

Reading Passage Links

[Benefits of Curiosity in the Workplace](#)

[The Most Important Curiosity Skills \(With Examples\)](#)

Activities

Alternate Kinesthetic Activities for Curiosity

**BOOKMARK**



Define Curiosity *(answer is in the passage)*

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What are the benefits of being a curious employee? *(answer is in the passage)*

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Explain the connection between being curious about your job and employee performance/improved work life?  
*(the answer is in the book and in my head)*

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**BOOKMARK**



Define Curiosity *(answer is in the passage)*

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What are the benefits of being a curious employee? *(answer is in the passage)*

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Explain the connection between being curious about your job and employee performance/improved work life?  
*(the answer is in the book and in my head)*

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**BOOKMARK**



Define Curiosity *(answer is in the passage)*

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What are the benefits of being a curious employee? *(answer is in the passage)*

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Explain the connection between being curious about your job and employee performance/improved work life?  
*(the answer is in the book and in my head)*

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# MY SNOOPING SKILL SET

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Career Selected \_\_\_\_\_

Skill Set 1	
Skills I Have	Skills I Need

Skill Set 2	
Skills I Have	Skills I Need

Skill Set 3	
Skills I Have	Skills I Need

Skill Set 4	
Skills I Have	Skills I Need

Skill Set 5	
Skills I Have	Skills I Need

Skill Set 6	
Skills I Have	Skills I Need



## The Benefits of Curiosity in the Workplace

Curiosity—or the impulse to seek new information/experiences and explore novel possibilities—is important to individuals’ lives. Recent research discussed in the [Harvard Business Review](#) revealed three important insights about curiosity in the workplace. First, research has revealed that curiosity is much more important to a company’s performance than previously thought. Cultivating curiosity helps employees and their leaders adapt to market conditions and pressures. Curiosity allows them to think innovatively and rationally about decisions and come up with creative solutions. Curiosity also helps leaders gain respect from their employees by building a more trusting and collaborative relationship. Second, it only takes small changes to enable leaders to encourage curiosity from their employees. And third, many leaders stifle curiosity fearing that it will increase risk and inefficiency. The first part of this two-part blog series will discuss the various benefits of curiosity for organizations, leaders, and employees. The second part (which will be posted next week) will discuss how leaders can bolster curiosity in the workplace.

Below are some of the benefits of curiosity:

- Fewer decision-making errors. When curiosity exists, individuals are less likely to fall victim to confirmation bias. In other words, they are less likely to look for information that supports their beliefs, rather than information that proves them wrong. With curiosity, individuals are less likely to make broad judgements and stereotype people.
- More innovation and positive changes in both creative and noncreative jobs. Encouraging people to be curious often improves work life. Those who are curious view difficult work situations more creatively. Curiosity is associated with less defensive reactions to stress and less aggressive reactions to provocation. Employees also perform better when they are curious.
- Reduced group conflict. Curiosity encourages employees in a group to understand others’ perspectives. They tend to take interest in others’ ideas rather than just focusing on their own. This creates a group that works better together and ultimately achieves better results. There is also a decrease in conflict.
- More open communication and better team performance. Employees with higher levels of curiosity share information more openly and listen more carefully.

[The Benefits of Curiosity in the Workplace - CMA \(cmaconsult.com\)](#)



## Excerpts from: THE MOST IMPORTANT CURIOSITY SKILLS (WITH EXAMPLES)

By [Sky Ariella](#) - Mar. 18, 2021

Visit [The Most Important Curiosity Skills \(With Examples\) – Zippia](#) to read the entire article

Most people imagine the perfect employee as an individual who already possesses all the skills and knowledge in their industry to [put out the best work](#).

In reality, the most successful professionals are often the people who consistently demonstrate curiosity and a willingness to learn more. Curiosity drives a person towards always improving themselves, their work, and learning more about their field.

Fostering your own professional curiosity can have incredibly positive repercussions in your career.

### WHAT IS CURIOSITY?

Curiosity is defined as the desire for learning more. This urge to attain more knowledge grows organically from a person and is not the result of hoping to gain some type of reward. They're just genuinely interested in the subject matter at hand.

To better understand what counts as being curious, and what doesn't, consider the example of a college student.

The work that they're doing for the classes on their schedule isn't born from curiosity because they're completing the tasks for the reason of receiving a grade, and eventually graduating. However, the additional books they read in their spare time about a lecture topic that especially interested them is considered an act of curiosity.

Curiosity is a mindset of embracing knowledge, which can be developed to boost success in [your career](#).

### 3 WAYS CURIOSITY CAN HELP YOUR CAREER

Companies dread the realization that they've brought an employee on their team who simply comes in to cash a paycheck. While this type of individual might cruise by undetected for a bit, their professional stagnation will eventually be noticed. That's [why employers look for](#) curious candidates [when they're hiring for an open position](#).

Getting hired is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to positive aspects of curiosity in your professional life. Below are a few more examples of the ways curiosity can help your career.

1. **More knowledge strengthens your work skills.** Curious people are constantly seeking more knowledge about every facet of their careers. This inadvertently strengthens their professional skills and makes them better employees. [Once a supervisor notices](#) this habit of constantly improving performance, you'll be in line [for more leadership opportunities](#).

2. **It inspires innovative ideas.** Since curiosity leads to being a walking bank of knowledge, there's a likely chance that you'll also have strong creative thinking and innovative ideas. Taking these concepts to your job could result in making the company more efficient, jump-starting a new project, or making another sort of positive impact.
3. **Your learning capabilities improve.** After getting into the flow of being curious and constantly taking in more knowledge, you'll eventually start to sharpen your learning skills altogether. The ability to learn information is a skill just like any other. Improving upon it can have excellent outcomes for your work performance, [creative thinking skills](#), and knowledge retention.

## 5 TIPS FOR BEING MORE CURIOUS AT WORK

If you're starting to consider your curiosity at work and are coming up short, there's hope for you yet. While many people are naturally curious about subjects that interest them, the mindset can be fostered in other ways. Start by reading through the following 5 tips for being more curious at work.

1. **Ask lots of questions.** Think about how many of [the questions](#) that run through your inner monologue are vocalized out loud. If you only make your questions known about half the time, kick that average up to 95%. Ask every question that comes to you without the fear that it'll be received as stupid. You may be surprised at the wonders that asking questions can do for your curiosity.
2. **Listen to your co-workers and supervisors.** There are dozens of brilliant insights you could be overlooking from your co-workers and supervisors. If you want to enhance your curious mind start listening more to the people in your professional circle. They could spark interests or prompt research into areas that you never even thought of before.
3. **Don't look at learning as a chore.** The easiest way to get more acquainted with curiosity is by altering your mindset about learning. Start viewing the pursuit of knowledge as an enjoyable and fun activity, that also happens to better you as a person. Once you change the way you look at learning, your curiosity has the space to bloom.
4. **Read more books.** Within the pages of a book, there's a whole world of information and knowledge. A simple way to enhance your curiosity and knowledge is by picking up a new book and spending an afternoon of your free time with it. You might be surprised at how much knowledge you can absorb from reading.
5. **Analyze the world around you.** Part of being a curious person, and employee, is not taking the world around you at face value. This means that you don't just accept things the way they are, you analyze the situation. [Thinking analytically](#) about your professional and personal environment can help promote curious thinking about how things could be improved.

# License to Snoop: 6 Careers for Curious Types

**Annie Favreau** Updated: Feb. 08, 2017

[License To Snoop: 6 Careers For Curious Types \(rd.com\)](#)

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We're all raised on the idea that curiosity killed the cat.

Yet a natural inclination toward nosiness can be a fantastic asset for certain jobs. If you're intrigued by the prospect of digging for dirt – or just fascinated by other people's business – here are six jobs that will keep you snooping to your heart's content.



## 1. Online Reputation Manager

Anyone who's ever Googled themselves – and let's be honest, who hasn't? – will appreciate the work of an Online Reputation Manager.

Whether responding to complaints about a company's product or scrounging up Facebook photos of a celebrity inhaling something strange, online rep managers strive to create a spotless online image for their clients. And that means you spend lots of time playing online detective to proactively scour, downplay, or explain away any scandal, slander, or simple misinformation.

For public relations specialist positions like this one, demand is skyrocketing – with expected growth at 24 percent or higher by 2018. **Average salary:** \$39,000-\$72,000

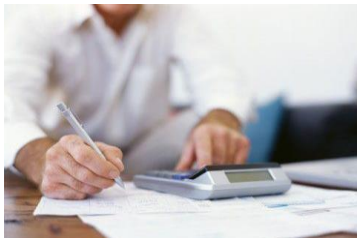
## 2. Gossip Columnist

Tracking down every juicy detail of a celebrity's life is all part of the daily grind for a gossip columnist.

Combining journalism with a heavy dose of creative speculation, you schmooze with A-listers and confer with "unnamed sources" to bring readers the latest on who's on bump watch and who's in rehab.

This could be a dream job for some inquisitive folks, but there's serious competition and relatively low demand for this job. So if writing about the latest exploits of Brangelina gets you jazzed, prepare yourself for a long professional slog.

**Average salary:** \$25,000–\$51,000



## 3. Forensic Accountant

Ever curious about company finances? As a forensic accountant, it's your job to pour over other people's money business.

While investigating insurance claims, tax evasion, or money laundering, your nose is constantly poked into someone else's books. Your snooping even supports an honorable cause: acquitting the innocent and catching the criminal.

Increasing need – 22 percent growth through 2018 to be exact – for forensic accountants stems from a greater emphasis on transparency and accountability in financial reporting. (Bernie Madoff, anyone?)

**Average salary:** \$47,000–\$80,000



#### 4. Human Resources Manager

If you really want to know the lowdown on all your co-workers, become an HR manager. From how much money Joe in product development makes to the reason he had to leave his previous job, you are privy to almost all confidential office info.

Plus, since it's your task to listen to employee complaints, you're always at the breaking edge of any gossip-worthy news.

The drawback? You can't actually share any of the juicy details when you're chatting by the water cooler. However, the career prospects should make up for it: job growth is predicted to increase at a rapid rate – 22 percent over the next six years. **Average salary:** \$39,000–\$90,000



#### 5. Transportation Security Screener

Since the Transportation Security Administration (TSA for short) was created in response to the attacks of 9/11, transportation security agents have been screening passengers, baggage, and cargo to protect our friendly skies.

In the name of security, you literally go through people's dirty laundry, x-raying and opening bags, patting people down and asking questions to identify potential threats. Plus, transportation security screeners often receive extensive training in the fields of security, intelligence and counterterrorism, which can lead to a whole range of other intelligence-gathering jobs.

Because of heightened security demands, the need for TSA officers is expected to expand at a faster-than-average clip through 2018. **Average salary:** \$22,000–\$40,000



#### 6. Private Investigator

The granddaddy of all curious careers, private investigators actually get paid to spy on other people. Professional bliss awaits the inquisitive worker, as you follow spouses accused of cheating, dig up confidential business memos, track down missing persons and run background checks for your friend in HR.

The field for private detectives and investigators is expected to grow 22 percent by 2018. It's a toss up whether this spike in demand is due to increased security needs or cheaters-inspired paranoia. Either way, it's good for the job market.

**Average Salary:** \$32,000–\$58,000

## Alternate Kinesthetic Activities for Curiosity

### 1. Cubing

**(Resources needed: 1 printed copy of Bloom's Cube per group of students, scissors, tape)**

- a. After the class discussion of Curiosity and its examples at work, break students into small groups.
- b. Write **Curiosity and ways to demonstrate** it on the board
- c. Print as many copies of the Bloom's Cube as there are small groups. Pass out one Bloom's Cube page per group and have group members cut and tape the paper until it forms a cube or die.
- d. Students will take turns rolling the cube and answering the prompt regarding the topic written on the board.
- e. Example – The student rolls *Explain it*. The student would explain curiosity to their group members.
- f. Students take turn rolling the cube until teacher calls time.

### 2. Paper Ball Basketball

**(Resources needed: trashcan, tape, scrap paper or ball) Teacher Prep: Teacher places trashcan at the front of the room and, using tape, marks a line 3 feet from the trashcan, 5 feet from the trashcan, and 7 feet from the trashcan. The teacher will take several sheets of notebook or copy paper and create a ball, securing it with tape.**

- a. After the class discussion of Curiosity and its examples at work, break students into small groups.
- b. Write **Curiosity and ways to demonstrate** it on the board
- c. Place students in small groups.
- d. Students in groups will brainstorm examples (10 minutes) of how to demonstrate curiosity at work. Someone in the group will record the answers.
- e. After teacher calls time on brainstorming

ROUND 1: Teacher: Each group will select a person to give one example of curiosity at work. Those who are correct (without repeating an answer) will go over to the lines on the floor to “shoot” the ball into the trashcans. Each student picks the line from which to shoot. Points are assigned as follows:

1. A 3 feet shot is worth 1 point
2. A 5 feet shot is worth 2 points
3. A 7 feet shot is worth 3 points

ROUND 2: Teacher: Each group will select a **NEW** person to give one example of curiosity at work. Those who are correct (without repeating an answer) will go over to the lines on the floor to “shoot” the ball into the trashcans.

- f. Rounds continue until all answers are given or the teacher has pre-determined the number of rounds to play. The group with the most points wins the game.



# Bloom's Cube

