

Three BigFuture Scavenger Hunts for High School Students

Overview

1. In these activities, students will explore career and college planning tools and information on BigFuture®, a free online guide.
2. Each activity focuses on a different area of BigFuture: Explore Careers, Plan for College, Pay for College.
3. Each activity takes about 20 minutes. Teachers can choose when in their school year to do one or all of the activities.

Recommended Timing

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Sophomores	Explore Careers	Plan for College
Juniors	Explore Careers Plan for College	Explore Careers Pay for College
Seniors	Explore Careers Plan for College Pay for College	Pay for College

Objectives

Students will:

1. Explore at least one of 3 sections of BigFuture
 - Explore Careers
 - Plan for College
 - Pay for College
2. Earn at least one entry into monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships from BigFuture. For more information, visit bigfuture.org/scholarships.

Before the Activity

1. Ensure every student has access to a computer or device with Internet access.
2. Before class, ask students to create a College Board account or bring their email address and password for their existing College Board account.
3. Decide which section of BigFuture you'll have students explore (Explore Careers, Plan for College, Pay for College).
 - Tip for Teachers: For the end of the 2023 school year, BigFuture recommends starting with Careers or College in order for students to qualify for scholarships. For more information, visit bigfuture.org/scholarships.
4. Prepare to show the following videos.
 - For all activities:
 - [How to Earn BigFuture Scholarships](#)
 - For Explore Careers Activity:
 - [How to Explore Careers on BigFuture](#)
 - For Plan for College Activity:
 - [How to Plan for College on BigFuture](#)
5. Make copies of or digitally provide the Scavenger Hunt lists (below) to your students.

Classroom Activity

Optional—Anticipatory Set (5 mins): Ask students to discuss or write about one or more of the following questions.

1. Think about what you love.

- a. What classes have you found especially inspiring?
- b. What activities keep you so absorbed that you don't even notice how much time has passed?
2. What are 2–3 experiences that have taught you something about yourself? Which gave you the greatest sense of satisfaction? Why?
3. What are your goals for life after high school? What's one thing you can do now to help you achieve that goal?
4. What is your dream job and what type of education does it require?
5. Write down 5 qualities that describe your personality.
6. Overall, how do you feel about the process of planning and preparing for life after high school?

Introduction (2 mins.): Frame the purpose and objectives of this activity. Key points:

- Planning for life after high school is important and filled with many decisions. BigFuture is a free online planning guide that can help you take the right first step after high school. BigFuture helps you connect the things that are important to you to decisions about what you'll do after high school.
- Today, we are going to use BigFuture to (select the topic you've chosen):
 - o Explore careers
 - o Plan and search for colleges
 - o Find scholarships and learn about financial aid

Set up (5 mins.): Ask students to open up their devices and open bigfuture.org. They should sign in or create a College Board account in order to save their progress and qualify automatically for entries into drawings for \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships from BigFuture.

Scavenger Hunt (15 mins.): See resources below.

Optional—Share-out (5 mins.):

Ask students to share in pairs, group, or whole class about their career, college, or scholarship exploration.

1. Which careers/colleges/scholarships sounded most interesting to them?
2. What additional questions do they have about exploring careers, colleges, or scholarships?
3. How might they get those questions answered?

Recommend BigFuture Live Rewatch to hear from experts: bigfuture.org/rewatch

Did you use this activity in class?

Give us feedback [here](#).

BigFuture Scavenger Hunt Explore Careers

Name: _____

Instructions: Create an account, or sign in to BigFuture®. Find and take the Career Quiz, and explore the following questions to complete the Scavenger Hunt.

- What are your Top Three Interest Areas?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Do you agree that these interest areas align with what you like to do? Which one do you most agree with?

- Add at least 3 careers to your career list on BigFuture.
(Adding 3 careers to your list by February of senior year will automatically enter you into monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000!)
- For the 3 careers that you're most interested in, find the following information:

Career	Education Level	Median National Income	Median Income in Your State
<i>Example: Speech Language Pathologist</i>	<i>Master's or Professional Degree</i>	<i>\$78,930</i>	<i>\$92,095 in the state of Colorado</i>

- Select one career from above. Of the tasks, knowledge, and skills required in that career:

What are you most excited to do or learn more about?

Which do you already have some experience with?

- Bonus: Explore Career Clusters for one of your careers, and write down 5 majors to consider for a career in that area.

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BigFuture Scavenger Hunt Plan for College

Name: _____

Instructions: Create an account, or sign in to BigFuture®. Find College Search, and explore the following questions to complete the Scavenger Hunt.

- Explore the filters on College Search to get a list of colleges that are right for you.
- Add at least 6 colleges to your college list on BigFuture.
 - Tip for CO2025
 - Until June 30, 2024: Adding 6 colleges to your list will automatically enter you into monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000!
 - Tip for CO2024
 - Until June 30, 2023: Adding 6 colleges to your list will automatically enter you into monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000!
 - July 1–October 31, 2023: Focus on creating a list that has a strong range of schools that interest you. You can factor in test score information to explore different schools. If your college list has at least 3 reach colleges, 2 match colleges, and 1 safety, you'll automatically be entered into monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000.
- For 3 colleges, find the following information:

College	What kinds of degrees does it offer?	What percentage of students receive financial aid?	How many students are there?	When are applications due?
<i>Example: Laramie County Community College</i>	<i>Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>2404</i>	<i>Applications are accepted throughout the year.</i>

- Watch a video from one of the schools you're interested in. What's one thing you learned from watching the video?

- What's one thing you still have questions about?

BigFuture Scavenger Hunt Pay for College

Name: _____

Instructions: Create an account, or sign in to bigfuture.org. Find Scholarship Search, and answer the questions to get matched with scholarships you qualify for. Explore the following questions to complete the Scavenger Hunt.

- Review the information for 3 scholarships, and visit their websites if needed. Fill out the information below.

Scholarship	Due Date	How much could you win?	Do you have to write an essay?
<i>Example: Courage to Grow Scholarship</i>	<i>December 31, 2023</i>	<i>\$500</i>	<i>Yes</i>

- Which of the above will you apply for?
- Visit the page called Financial Aid Basics.
- What is the FAFSA[®] and why should you apply for it?

 - Select one other article to read about financial aid. What's one thing you learned?

 - What questions do you still have about financial aid?

If completing this activity after July 1, 2023:

Add at least 3 scholarships to your scholarship list on BigFuture[®].

(Adding 3 scholarships to your list by February of senior year will automatically enter you into monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000!)