**Classroom Counseling Lesson Plan**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Lesson Title** | **Grade Range** | **Time Needed** |
| 21st Century Career Skills | 6-8 | 45 minutes |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Domain** | **Mindset Standards** | **Behavior Standards** |
| Career/SE/Academic | 2, 3 | SM: 7 SS: 6, 7 |

**Learning Objectives:**

* Students will understand the meaning & importance of 21st century skills.
* Students will become self-aware of the 21st century skills they feel confident using in their personal life and in school.

**Supplies/Materials:**

* “21st Century Skills Relay” handout (attached)
* “21st Century Skills Relay Answer Key” (attached)
* Prize for winning team (optional)
* “21st Century Skills” handout (attached)

**Rationale:** *Many students have difficulty connecting the information and skills they are learning in school to their lives outside of school. Research has proven that students who make this connection are more motivated to achieve in school and more likely to set and accomplish career development goals****.***

**Outline:**

1. Give students copies of the “21st Century Skills Relay” (attached).
2. Break the class into small groups (suggested group size is 4-8 students). Ask them to use all of the combined resources of their team to complete the relay as quickly and accurately as possible (if you wish to make the relay especially competitive, you may want to offer a prize to the winning team).
3. Tell the class to let you know when they think they have all of the items correct. In order to win the relay, each group will be expected to stand up in front of the class and give their answers to each item in the relay, out loud and in order. Each person in the group must do at least one of the items. (Use the “21st Century Skills Relay Answer Key” (attached) to judge whether each answer is correct.) If the first team misses an answer, the next team finished is given the opportunity to complete their relay in front of the class. This process continues until a team is declared a winner.
4. Ask the students some process questions:
   1. Did any of you know all the answers to the relay on your own?
   2. What happened as you worked together in your group?
   3. What made the winning group successful?
5. Emphasize to the class that in a workplace of the 21st century, people usually work in teams, allowing them to use the strengths and knowledge of each team member to accomplish the job that needs to be done.
6. Ask students, “Speaking of the 21st century, how many of you have ever asked yourself, your parents or your teachers, ‘Why do I have to learn this?’ or ‘How am I ever going to use this in real life?’ These are questions that students often ask in classes, especially those that may very difficult or especially boring to them. Do you think the information and skills you learn in school will really be useful to you in life?” Tell your students you’re going to try to answer some of those questions today.
7. Tell the class that the knowledge and skills they used to succeed in the relay today are some of the skills necessary to be prepared for the workplace in the 21st century.
8. Inform students 21st century skills fall into four main categories:
   1. **Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes:** Most of these are the names of classes you will be taking to fill high school graduation requirements (Example: English. How do you think people use English skills in their jobs?)
   2. **Learning and Innovation Skills:** These allow you to learn and innovate, which means to try a variety of new and exciting things. (Example: Collaboration, which means to cooperate or work jointly with another person or group. How do people use collaboration in their jobs? How can you learn collaboration skills in school?)
   3. **Information, Media and Technology Skills:** We live in the “Information Age,” which means that many people earn their living by working with information. Technology is a great tool in working with incredible amounts of information available to us today. (Example: Computer skills. How many jobs of the 21st century can you think of that do not require computer skills?)
   4. **Life and Career Skills:** Personal characteristics which lead to life/career success. (Example: Flexibility means to be able to adjust to a new situation quickly. How did you show flexibility in the 21st Century Skills Relay we did a few minutes ago? How will this quality be important in future jobs?)
9. Tell students you’re going to give each group a set of cards with a few of the 21st century skills to discuss. The job of their team will be to decide which category each skill fits under and place it on the board, under the correct category.
10. Give each group a set of cards with a variety of skills along with some masking tape or magnets. Allow them 2-3 minutes to discuss what each skill is, determine which category it fits under, and tape it under that category. (If you wish to track how each group did, it is much easier with color-coded cards. There are a total of 28 cards, including examples, so you have six groups of four cards each). When all of the skills have been placed under the categories, review to see how everyone did using the key below:

**Core Learning/Innovation Information/Media/Tech. Life/Career**

**Subjects/Themes**

English Collaboration Computer skills Flexibility

Reading Brainstorming Evaluating information Leadership

World languages Critical thinking Using information Goal setting

Fine arts Problem solving Managing information Time

Management Reasoning Research skills Independence

Economics Creativity Social skills

History/geography Responsibility

Science

Government/civics

Financial literacy

(The placement of some of the skills in columns two and four may be a little confusing for students. Help t hem understand these are skills employers look for, and help them not to get too hung up on their placement. The general concepts of being “life-long learners” and have good “life/career skills” are the most important to emphasize, rather than the placement of a specific skill.)

1. After groups finish this activity, distribute “21st Century Skills” handout (attached) and ask students to circle the skills they are confident in using in both their personal lives and their school work. Remind them as they grow into adulthood in the world, their ability to get good jobs and advance in their chosen careers will depend on their willingness to develop these skills during their remaining years in school. Business, government, and education leaders in the U.S. have sent a very strong message (through the Partnership for 21st Century Skills [www.p21.org](http://www.p21.org)) that these are the things they value most.
2. Encourage students to do their best to develop 21st century skills, and if there is any remaining time, discuss some of the ways, both at school and in their personal lives, they can develop these skills right now. Help them understand these skills will help them to be happier and more successful, even as teenagers.

Adapted from: Utah State Office of Education. (2013). Career and technical education: Career

development activity #13 21st century career skills. Retrieved from:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/CTE/cteintro/Career-Development.aspx>.

**21st Century Skills Relay**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Using the combined resources of your group, answer the following questions as quickly as possible. When you believe you have all of the right answers, let your teacher know immediately!

1. List ten adjectives that could be used to describe your classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Count to ten in a foreign language.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. List 5 famous artists.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. List 5 famous musical groups.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. You have gone to the store to buy some new school clothes. There is a “sale” sign announcing that all items on the clearance rack are 60% off the original price. For each item, calculate the discount and the sale price.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Original Price | 60% Discount | Clearance |
| Jeans | $40 | $\_\_\_\_\_ | $\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Shirts | $25 | $\_\_\_\_\_ | $\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Shoes | $50 | $\_\_\_\_\_ | $\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Shorts | $30 | $\_\_\_\_\_ | $\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Socks | $5 | $\_\_\_\_\_ | $\_\_\_\_\_ |

6. Name a country that uses each of the following names for its currency:

Peso \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Euro \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Yen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dollar \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pound \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. List the planets in our solar system.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. List 5 countries in South America.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. List 10 Presidents of the United States of America.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. Write the name of the branch of the U.S. government next to its major responsibility.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ makes the laws.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enforces the laws.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ interprets the laws.

**21st Century Skills—Answer Key**

(Answers will vary)

**1. List ten adjectives that could be used to describe your classroom.**

Adjectives are any descriptive words such as cold, cluttered, large, old, crowded, etc.

**2. Count to ten in a foreign language.**

*Spanish*

Uno,

Dos,

Tres,

Cuatro,

Cinco,

Seis,

Siete,

Ocho,

Nueve,

Diez

**3. List 5 famous artists.**

Van Gogh

Rembrandt

Picasso

Rockwell

Monet

**4. List 5 famous musical groups.**

Beatles

Chicago

Rolling Stones

NSYNC

All-American Rejects

**5. You have gone to the store to buy some new school clothes. There is a “sale” sign announcing that all items on the clearance rack are 60% off the original price. For each item, calculate the sale price.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Original Price | 60% Discount | Clearance |
| Jeans | $40 | $24 | $16 |
| Shirts | $25 | $15 | $10 |
| Shoes | $50 | $30 | $20 |
| Shorts | $30 | $18 | $12 |
| Socks | $5 | $3 | $2 |

**6. Name a country that uses each of the following names for its currency:**

Peso – Mexico

Euro – France

Yen – Japan

Dollar – Canada

Pound – United Kingdom (England)

**7. List the planets in our solar system.**

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

Pluto

**8. List 5 countries in South America.**

Chile

Argentina

Peru

Bolivia

Brazil

**9. List 10 Presidents of the United States of America.**

Obama

Bush

Clinton

Bush

Reagan

Carter

Ford

Nixon

Lincoln

Washington

**10. Write the name of the branch of the U.S. government next to its major responsibility.**

Legislative makes laws.

Executive enforces laws.

Judicial interprets laws.

**Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes**

**Learning and Innovation Skills**

**Information, Media and Technology Skills**

**Life and Career Skills**

**English**

**Collaboration**

**Computer Skills**

**Flexibility**

**Reading**

**Brainstorming**

**Evaluating Information**

**Financial Literacy**

**Leadership**

**World Languages**

**Critical Thinking**

**Government/Civics**

**Using Information**

**Goal Setting**

**Fine Arts**

**Science**

**Problem Solving**

**Managing Information**

**Time Management**

**Mathematics**

**Reasoning**

**Research Skills**

**Independence**

**Economics**

**Creativity**

**Social Skills**

**History/Geography**

**Responsibility**

**21st Century Skills**

**Circle the skills you feel confident using in your**

**personal life and in school work.**

**English**

**Math**

**Science**

**History**

**Languages**

**Reading**

**Collaboration**

**Critical Thinking**

**Flexibility**

**Problem Solving**

**Computer Skills**

**Research Skills**

**Flexibility**

**Leadership**

**Goal Setting**

**Time Management**

**Independence**

**Social Skills**

**Responsibility**

**Brainstorming**