

Hospitality in Texas – Your Career Starts Here

Lesson Plan

Course: Principles of Hospitality & Tourism / Hospitality Services / Hotel Management

Grade Level: 9–12

Length: 50 Minutes

Resource: THLA Hospitality Careers Video

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prkQL5aTXbw&t=11s>

Lesson Title

Exploring Career Pathways in the Hotel Industry

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify at least five hotel industry occupations.
 2. Describe the responsibilities of at least one hotel department.
 3. Explain how customer service impacts guest satisfaction.
 4. Research a hotel career and identify education, skills, salary, and advancement opportunities.
 5. Develop a preliminary career pathway plan for a hotel occupation.
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Materials

- THLA Hospitality Careers Video
 - Student Career Exploration Worksheet
 - Internet-enabled devices (optional)
 - Whiteboard/chart paper
 - Exit Ticket
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50-Minute Lesson Sequence

Bell Ringer (5 Minutes)

Ask students:

"When you think about jobs in a hotel, what positions come to mind?"

Students list as many hotel jobs as they can in two minutes.

Teacher records responses on the board.

Possible answers:

- Front Desk Agent
- Housekeeper
- Sales Manager
- Chef
- Event Planner
- Human Resources Manager
- General Manager
- Revenue Manager
- Marketing Manager
- Engineer/Maintenance Technician
- Security Officer

Video Viewing (5 Minutes)

Show the THLA Hospitality Careers Video. While watching, students should identify:

- Hotel departments shown
- Occupations mentioned
- Skills needed for success
- Opportunities for advancement



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Guided Discussion (10 Minutes)

Facilitate discussion using these questions:

Observation Questions

1. Which careers stood out to you?
2. Which departments did you notice?
3. What surprised you about hotel careers?
4. What skills appeared to be important?

Critical Thinking Questions

5. Why is customer service important in every hotel position?
6. Which careers require teamwork?
7. How could someone start in an entry-level position and eventually become a General Manager?

Record key ideas on the board.

Career Pathway Challenge Activity (15 Minutes)

Step 1: Career Selection (2 minutes)

Students select one hotel career that interests them.

Examples:

- Front Office Manager
- Housekeeping Manager
- Executive Chef
- Event Manager
- Human Resources Director
- Sales Director
- Revenue Manager
- General Manager



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Step 2: Career Research (8 minutes)

Students research and complete:

Career Information	Student Response
Job Title	
Primary Responsibilities	
Education Required	
Skills Needed	
Average Salary	
Entry-Level Position	
Advancement Opportunities	

Step 3: Career Ladder (5 minutes)

Students create a simple career pathway:

Example:

Front Desk Agent → Front Office Supervisor → Front Office Manager → Rooms Director → General Manager

Group Share-Out (10 Minutes)

Students form small groups and share:

- Career selected
- Most interesting responsibility
- Skills needed
- Potential career pathway

Each group identifies:

"Which hotel career offers the greatest opportunity for advancement and why?"

Groups report answers to the class.



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Exit Ticket (5 Minutes)

Students answer:

1. Name one hotel career you learned about today.
2. What skill is most important for success in hospitality?
3. Would you consider a career in the hotel industry? Why or why not?

Collect before students leave.

Extension Activities

Option 1: Career Interview Assignment

Students interview a hotel professional and ask:

1. How did you get started?
2. What do you enjoy most about your job?
3. What challenges do you face?
4. What advice would you give high school students?

Option 2: Hotel Department Research Project

Assign each student a department:

- Front Office
- Housekeeping
- Food & Beverage
- Sales & Marketing
- Human Resources
- Engineering
- Events & Banquets

Students create a one-page career profile or presentation.



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Option 3: "A Day in the Life" Presentation

Students create a short presentation describing:

- Daily responsibilities
- Work schedule
- Required skills
- Salary range
- Advancement opportunities

Option 4: Groundhog Job Shadow Day Preparation

Students develop five professional questions they would ask a hotel leader during a job shadow experience.

Assessment

Formative Assessment

- Discussion participation
- Career pathway worksheet
- Group sharing

Summative Assessment

Career Research Project (can be completed as homework)

Students submit:

- Career profile
- Career ladder
- Reflection paragraph explaining whether the career aligns with their interests, strengths, and future goals.

This lesson directly connects students to real-world hotel career opportunities showcased in the THLA Hospitality Careers Video while supporting Texas Hospitality & Tourism career exploration, customer service, leadership, communication, and career readiness standards.

