

## Occupations

**Companion Text:** Night Symphony, written by Lara Binn, and illustrated by Valia Ovseyko  
**Subject Area & Grade Level:** Social Studies, 1st Grade

### Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Link goods and services to the occupations responsible for creating them
- Demonstrate a broader view of the myriad of occupations in their community
- Demonstrate understanding of linkages and dependencies between professions

### Introduction

Read the story once through without stopping. Then, open back up to the Saturday Night page and ask students what a “conductor” is. Point out how there are two kinds of conductors—those who conduct trains, and those who conduct symphony orchestras. Ask students who else has a job that is related to the symphony. They will likely say “musicians,” maybe they will think of the people who run the light booth or sound booth at the auditorium, but try to lead them past that. Ask questions such as:

- What other occupations support a symphony playing?
- Who made the instruments? (violin-maker, etc.)
- Who built the auditorium the orchestra is playing in? (construction worker)
- Who designed the auditorium? (architect)
- Who tested the water in the auditorium drinking fountains to be sure it is safe? (toxicologist)
- Who wrote the music that the musicians will play? (composer)
- Who printed the sheet music? (publisher)
- Who wrote the program that people get? (writer)
- Who hands the program to people and helps them to their seats? (usher)
- Who manages all the ushers and ticket-takers? (house manager)

You can continue with this line of questioning in any direction to help students take note of the wide range of and connections between the many people who are ultimately responsible for the successful performance of a symphony orchestra.

### Procedure

Have students choose two or three occupations (jobs) that they want to connect. Have them write a sentence about and illustrate a picture of how those jobs are linked together. Try to encourage a wide range of occupation choices among the students. You can have students work in small groups first to help each other brainstorm possible occupations, and form ideas about the connections between them, but ultimately have each student create his or her own picture and sentence.



Some possible occupations that you could suggest if students cannot think of interesting ones are:

- realtor
- social worker
- forest ranger
- paramedic
- pilot
- florist
- electrician
- astronaut
- software engineer
- salesperson
- accountant
- yacht repairperson
- customer service agent
- janitor
- judge
- actor/actress
- hairstylist
- author
- epidemiologist
- cashier
- chef
- waiter/waitress
- filmmaker
- urban planner
- stockbroker
- stocker
- test driver
- biologist
- house painter
- carpenter
- archeologist
- historian
- judge
- athlete
- veterinarian
- minister

### *Discussion*

Have students share their pictures and describe the linkages between the occupations they chose. The wider the range of occupations presented, the better this lesson will be. Ask students if they have any idea about what occupation they want to have when they are older, and allow them to share their thoughts. Ask students if this lesson taught them about any new occupations that they had never previously considered, or even recognized.

