

Helper Hunt

MATERIALS

FOR STUDENT:
(one per student
unless otherwise
noted)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Blocks, two - cut from large Foam Block (see "FOR TEACHER") to 4" x 10 1/2" x 1"
- Toothpicks, ten
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Paper plate
- Small plastic cup (to hold parts)

FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Block, 1" x 12" x 36" (will get ten 4" x 10 1/2" x 1" pieces per block, enough for five students)
- Colored cardstock paper, 8 1/2" x 11" in: Yellow, orange, blue, purple, fuchsia, green, teal and red (Determine the number of sheets of each color needed based on each student needing an average length of 1" x 3" of each color.)
- Copy paper
- Sheet of white address labels
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Serrated knife
- Paper cutter
- Scissors
- Glue gun (for teacher only)
- Cutting mat or stack of old newspapers
- Computer and printer



SOCIAL STUDIES
GRADE LEVEL
KINDERGARTEN – FIRST

COMPLETION TIME
• 45 minutes



OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- What community help means
- To recognize examples of community helpers and how they help us with their services
- To enjoy learning while playing through matching words/ names with career clothing

STANDARDS

- Learn about individuals, groups and institutions as part of places in the community.
- Describe the work that people do (police officer, fire fighter, mail carrier, baker, farmer, doctor, teacher, etc.)
- Explain that people earn income by exchanging their human resources (physical or mental work) for wages or salaries.

LESSON INTRODUCTION

- Discuss community helpers in their neighborhoods. Have students think of as many community helpers as they can – even asking them to go home to talk with their families to gather as many as possible. Invite students to share stories of assistance that they received from the helpers.
- Explain that they will be making a game in which they match the name of the helper with the picture of the helper by inserting name signs above the pictures.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! Decide if you'll cut the Community Helper name strips and cardstock mounting strips to the individual correct lengths, or if you'll provide standardized long strips and have the students cut them to the right lengths. Have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when you're in a hurry to help students. It is also recommended that you make one project first, before preparing the materials for any others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare.

[1] To cut the horizontal foam block, use a ruler and pencil to measure and mark nine horizontal rectangles, 4" x 10 1/2". At the other end, there is enough space left to add a vertical one for a total of ten rectangles per block. Then, on a cutting mat or stack of newspapers, use a serrated knife against the edge of the ruler to cut the foam block with several passes of the knife.

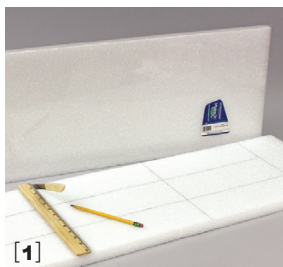
[2] Print the Community Helpers images to fit on 8 1/2" x 11" copy paper – one group of helpers per student. Use the paper cutter to trim the images to 4" x 10 1/2".

[3] Print the Community Helpers names, printing one

set of words for each student. Use the paper cutter to trim each name to a 1/2" wide strip by however long it needs to be, based on the length of the word. Also, cut colored cardstock into 1" wide strips by the appropriate length for the name that will be mounted onto it.

Use the paper cutter to cut seven 3/4" squares from copy paper, per student. Use the scissors to cut apart the address labels.

[4] Put on a paper plate for each student: Two foam pieces, Community Helper image, pencil, scissors, glue stick, and cup with: Community Helper names, colored cardstock mounting pieces, ten toothpicks, seven small paper squares and a label.



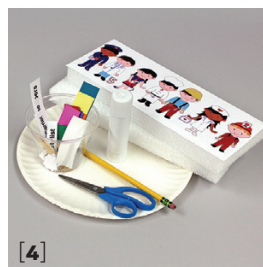
[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]



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INSTRUCTIONS

[1] Demonstrate how to apply the glue stick all over the large surface of one foam block. (Have students wait until you're finished demonstrating the next step, too.)



[2] Ask for someone to be your partner. Show them how to hold two corners of their Community Helpers image paper, while you hold the other two corners, positioned exactly over the top of the block. Set your corners down, while your partner holds their corners up, about an inch away from the surface. Smooth out the paper, going toward your partner, until it's time for your partner to release the corners for you to smooth.

Have the students work with a partner to apply glue stick to the surface of one block, attach paper, and repeat for the partner.



[3] To assemble, demonstrate how to run a line of glue stick along the middle of the foam block base. (Stress that it only goes in the middle.) Demonstrate how to insert three toothpicks into the glue, (approximately) evenly spaced and going straight down into the foam. Then, have the students apply the glue and

insert their toothpicks.

Demonstrate how to align and press the Helper block onto the toothpicks and into the glue, removing and adjusting as needed. When you're sure that it's straight, press it all the way down and hold for a couple of minutes. Have the students repeat your demo.



[4] Demonstrate and have the students work on their plates to apply glue to the back of the "Community Helpers" title and mount it on the teal cardstock, explaining how to center the title to make even cardstock borders all around. Then continue talking them through the gluing of each name to the correct color cardstock, or have them refer to your sample to see the name and color match. (Note: Any color will work if the students are cutting their own lengths.)



[5] To attach the toothpicks, ask the students to turn over all their mounted words to the back. Demonstrate how to wipe the end of one toothpick on the glue stick to catch a lump of glue and then press the toothpick onto the center of one mounted word, with the toothpick extending out

the bottom. To help hold it in place, demonstrate applying glue to one of the 3/4" paper squares and place it over the toothpick, pressing to conform to the shape of the toothpick. Have students attach their toothpicks, reminding them to peek underneath to be sure that the toothpick will be extending out the bottom of the name.



[6] Demonstrate and have the students apply glue to the middle front edge of their base, going only as far to the right and left as the Community Helpers title will go. Press the strip into the glue to hold. Have the students write their name on the label and attach it to the bottom of the base. Then show them how to insert the toothpick-names into the top of the foam, pressing some toothpicks in farther than others, and allowing them to turn slightly, so that they all fit.



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MODIFICATIONS

To simplify project:

- Have the Community Helpers sheet already attached to the foam block.
- Print Helper names directly on colored cardstock and eliminate gluing strips. (See TIPS.)

To expand project:

- Have students find photos of other helpers and glue those to the back of the block. Then make additional corresponding names on toothpicks.
- Have students write an explanation of what each helper does, as part of a language arts activity.
- Discuss which jobs/careers have been in existence for generations and which are more recent.

For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side, with older students making drawings of the people in the careers.
- Older students can do Internet research for additional information on how some careers are more common in some parts of the country than others.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Ask students to interview a community helper and report to the class.
- Create learning centers / stations for students to have costumes and props relating to that career.
- Design other themes (songs, nursery rhymes, etc.) using the foam blocks on foam base concept. For more animal and children patterns go to Blackleaf Studios www.shopblackleaf.com

REFERENCES

Helpers In My Community by Bobbi Kalman

I Know My Community Workers by LoLo Smith

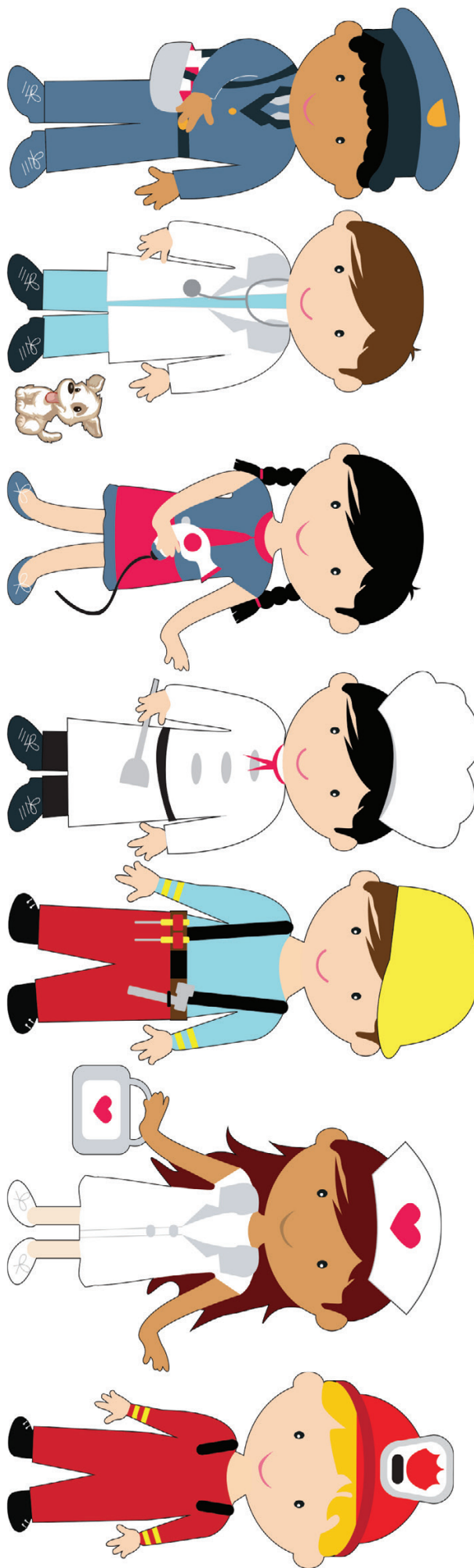
Whose Hands Are These? By Miranda Paul

Community Helpers by Bridgestone Books by various authors on specific occupations such as Pilots, Security Guards, Park Rangers, Meteorologists, Auto Mechanics, etc.

PATTERN

HELPER HUNT – COMMUNITY HELPERS IMAGE

Print at 100%



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TIPS

- Keep the knife blade perpendicular to the table so that the foam edges are straight. Score lightly first and then press more firmly to cut deeper with several passes of the knife.
- If any cut edges of the foam are irregular, just rub another edge of foam against it, over a plastic-lined wastebasket, to sand them down.
- To help the students line up the Community Helper foam block onto the base, use a ruler to measure and make a center line on the base. Then measure in from one end 2", 5" and 7" and mark with a pencil circle. Mark in the same places in the bottom of the Helper foam block. Then have students insert toothpicks into those marks when assembling.
- Instead of printing words on white paper and mounting them on colored, print directly on colored cardstock if your printer (or photocopier) can handle cardstock weight. (Note: If you do this, it will be more efficient if you make a separate page for each helper, comprised of the same name repeated.)
- Have additional glue sticks available since this project uses a lot of glue.
- For larger groups of students – write helper names on the board and mark the correct color to use for the mounting paper on each one. (Ideally, just draw a rectangle around the word, using colored board markers.)

PATTERN

HELPER HUNT – COMMUNITY HELPER NAMES

Print at 100%



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Community Helpers

Doctor or Nurse

Fire Fighter

Veterinarian

Carpenter

Mail Carrier

Hair Stylist

Chef

Community Helpers

Doctor or Nurse

Fire Fighter

Veterinarian

Carpenter

Mail Carrier

Hair Stylist

Chef