

STUDENT WORKSHEET

The built environment is all around us, so it's no surprise that most people have their own opinions about the construction industry. The following activities give you an opportunity to examine your personal beliefs and do some research to check the validity of your opinions.



WITH YOUR GROUP

When working in a group, allocate a note taker and speaker to report on your group's findings.

Discuss what you know about the construction industry with your peers. Talk about the pros and cons and make a list of what you think these are. Your list could look something like the example below.

The construction industry	
Pros	Cons
Gives us homes to live in	uses non-renewable resources
Schools	Energy use
Roads	Expensive

Write a set of statements of beliefs about the construction industry that draw on the list your group has created. For example:

- The construction industry is essential to our survival, because it provides shelter.
- The use of non-renewable resources to construct buildings is harmful to the environment.

Discuss in your group whether you all believe the statements you have written and how you know whether they are true or not.

What questions will you need to research to refute or support your group's statements of beliefs. Write these down alongside each statement.

Allocate statements and questions to group members for further research.



ON YOUR OWN

Use the Internet to research the answers your group has written in relation to your allocated statement(s).

Make a record of your research using a table similar to the one here.

Statement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction industry is essential to our survival, because it provides shelter.
Research Questions For how long have humans used shelter? Notes on answers go here Sources go here Have humans always built shelter? Notes on answers go here Sources go here What are the advantages/disadvantages of building shelter? Notes on answers go here Sources go here



DISCUSS

Group members present their findings on their allocated statement(s) and research questions and the group decides whether the original statement(s) are valid or need to be amended and, if so, how.

Discuss with your group whether your overall perceptions of the construction industry were accurate.



WITH YOUR GROUP

Prior to your visit to the Construction Futures Centre, consider the following statement:
"The construction industry is a source of employment and wealth creation."

Discuss these questions with your group:

Do you know anyone who works in construction or an associated trade or job?

Make a record of the number of people members of your group know who are employed in the construction industry and the types of roles they are employed in.

What sorts of jobs are there in the construction industry?

Try to classify the jobs you come up with into groups, for example:

Trades Sales Management Planning Design

These sites will assist with your discussion and classification:

<https://ctf.wa.gov.au/careers/>

<https://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/>

While you're at the Construction Futures Centre, collect information on careers in the construction industry so that you can add to your list of roles and refine your classifications.



ON YOUR OWN

Now that you have had an opportunity to think about and research your beliefs on the construction industry and have visited the Construction Futures Centre, think about whether and how your perceptions of the industry have changed.

Write a brief report on your research detailing your conclusions about the construction industry, the needs that are met by buildings and infrastructure, the opportunities the industry creates and how using evidence may have changed your understandings.