

Curious About Careers: Mechanical Engineering

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

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Do you like to build with blocks? Are you curious about how solar panels turn sun rays into electricity? Have you wondered how planes stay in the air? Do you wonder why putting gas into cars causes the wheels to turn? Do you like to design and create new things? If you do, a career in mechanical engineering might be right for you!

A mechanical engineer is responsible for coming up with and designing mechanical systems. Mechanical systems can include machine design, heating and cooling equipment, power generation, and product design. Products like the latest cellphone begin with an engineer coming up with the idea.

Mechanical engineers are in high demand right now. That means that there are a lot of job openings for mechanical engineers, but there aren't enough people to fill those jobs. Because there is a high need for engineers, and the work requires specialized knowledge, engineers get paid more than some other careers.

To be a mechanical engineer, you need to graduate from college with a bachelor's degree. During your years in college, you will learn problem-solving and critical thinking skills that will help you to succeed as an engineer.

Problem solving is very important in the field of mechanical engineering. People in this career need to be able to think about problems in different ways to figure out the best solution. You also need to be creative, because you may need to make something that's never been made before. Attention to detail is important, as well. Many designs rely on a lot of little details that need to work together.

