

### 66. Manufacturing Cluster - Furniture Careers (4 hours)

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| <b>Purpose/Abstract:</b> To introduce students to careers related to furniture in the manufacturing cluster.  |   |   |   |
| <b>NCCCS Adult Education Standards:</b> R.3.2.3, W.5.2.7, M.2.2.2   |   |   |   |
| <b>Learning Objective:</b><br><i>By the end of the session, students will be able to:</i>   |   |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain the significance of furniture finishers in producing high-quality furniture products.</li> <li>● Describe how effective communication, enthusiasm and positive attitude with team members enhances the furniture production process.</li> <li>● Identify and compare common themes and key aspects presented in articles that provide information about the furniture manufacturing sector in North Carolina.</li> </ul> |   |   |   |
| <b>Soft Skills</b>  | communication, enthusiasm & attitude  | <b>Resources</b>  | <a href="#">51-7021.00 - Furniture Finishers</a><br><a href="#">8 Reasons You Should Buy Furniture Made in North Carolina</a><br><a href="#">High Point: The Tiny North Carolina Town That Makes Most of America's Furniture</a><br>Math:<br><a href="#">Addition, subtraction, and estimation   4th grade   Math   Khan Academy</a><br>Handouts:<br>Math Practice - one for each student |
| <b>Additional Materials</b>   |   |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Math Practice handout, one for each student</li> <li>● Art supplies (glue, glitter, markers, paint, etc.)</li> <li>● Pencils, paper, and scissors</li> <li>● Computers for student use</li> </ul>  |   |   |   |
| <b>Icons</b>  |  <b>Activity</b> |  <b>Check-In</b> |  <b>Review</b>   |

#### PREPARATION

- Read and familiarize yourself with the two articles listed below:
  - [8 Reasons You Should Buy Furniture Made in North Carolina](#)
  - [High Point: The Tiny North Carolina Town That Makes Most of America's Furniture](#)
- Review [Addition, subtraction, and estimation | 4th grade | Math | Khan Academy](#) and familiarize yourself with the unit test and assign it as an extension activity during the Math section.
- Review the [Instructional Support Guide](#) and print/prepare referenced scaffolds.
- Print handouts.
- Familiarize yourself with [O\\*NET](#)
- Familiarize yourself with [Skills to Pay the Bills](#), though it won't be used directly in this lesson.

#### INTRODUCTION (30 min)



Welcome students to the class!

Introduce the theme of the lesson as the furniture industry and its significance.

Highlight that one of the roles this lesson will explore is that of furniture finishers. Use information from [51-7021.00 - Furniture Finishers](#) to share information about the role.

Explain that students will also explore the industry's importance in North Carolina and the soft skills required in related careers.

Introduce the lesson objectives.

### VOCABULARY, READING & WRITING (45 min)

Project the article [High Point: The Tiny North Carolina Town That Makes Most of America's Furniture](#).

Read sections of the article together, pausing to ask comprehension questions and promote discussion. Review any new vocabulary words in the article.

The comprehension questions can focus on understanding the article's main points, the role of High Point in the furniture industry, and the factors contributing to its growth.

### REFLECTION (20 minutes)

✓ Ask the following questions after reading the complete article as a whole class.

- *What takes place in the basement of the First United Methodist Church in High Point, North Carolina, each April and October?*
- *How does the city of High Point, North Carolina, transform twice a year during these events?*
- *How does the High Point Furniture Market contribute to the city's revenue?*
- *What is Parson's Table, and what role does it play during the High Point Market?*
- *How does High Point's location and history contribute to its niche furniture industry?*
- *When did the Southern Furniture Market come into existence, and what challenges did it face over the years?*
- *How does High Point's showroom space compare to other markets in terms of size?*
- *Besides traditional manufacturing companies, what are some other businesses that operate within High Point's furniture industry?*
- *Why might many people not have heard of the High Point Market, despite its large size?*
- *During the off-season, what efforts are being made to keep High Point engaged and active?*

Consider revisiting sections in the article to help identify answers for the questions if students need support.

### MATHEMATICS (45 min)

Review the concept of relating addition and subtraction to length using number line diagrams. Discuss the exercise students completed in the previous section. Have a few of them share their learnings from the exercise.

Have students share other ways they solve for addition and subtraction including using place values.

Provide examples related to the furniture industry, such as measuring lengths of furniture pieces or showroom spaces.

Distribute the math practice handout and allow ample time for completion. Students can choose to work in pairs or individually. Walk around and support students as required.

 REFLECTION (10 minutes)

✓ Review the answers with the whole class.

**Lower Level**

Give students extra time to complete the problems during the independent practice section.

**Higher Level**

Assign this unit test from Khan Academy for extra practice: [Addition, subtraction, and estimation | 4th grade | Math | Khan Academy](#)

**GROUP WORK (75 min)**

Explain that furniture in North Carolina holds a special place in the industry due to its rich history, exceptional craftsmanship, durability, and commitment to safety and sustainability. This state is renowned as "The Furniture Capital of the World" for its longstanding tradition of producing high-quality furniture that combines heritage with innovation, appealing to a diverse range of consumers. North Carolina's furniture industry not only offers a wide variety of styles but also contributes significantly to the state's economy, making it a trusted and celebrated source for top-notch furniture.

Tell students they will work collaboratively in groups to explore and understand the "8 Reasons You Should Buy Furniture Made in North Carolina" article, extracting key details, and presenting their assigned reason to the class.

Divide the students into small groups, ensuring that each group has an approximately equal number of members. The number of groups should correspond to the number of reasons (8) in the article. Share [8 Reasons You Should Buy Furniture Made in North Carolina](#) with each group. Assign each group one of the reasons.

Instruct each group to thoroughly read and discuss their assigned reason from the article. Encourage them to extract key details, insights, and any relevant statistics or examples that support their reason. Each group should prepare a concise presentation that includes:

- A clear explanation of their assigned reason.
- Supporting evidence or examples from the article.
- Insights into how this reason impacts the furniture industry in North Carolina.

 REFLECTION (15 minutes)

Allocate time for the groups to present their reasons to the class. Encourage active listening and questions from the audience.

✓ After each presentation, facilitate a brief class discussion to allow students to share their thoughts, ask questions, or provide additional insights related to the presented reason.

### INDEPENDENT WORK TIME (30 min)

Discuss the soft skills essential for success in furniture careers: effective communication, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude.

Explain that in furniture careers, success hinges on essential soft skills: effective communication, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude.

- **Effective Communication:** Vital for collaboration, clarity, and trust in furniture projects, from design to client interactions.
- **Enthusiasm:** Fuels creativity, innovation, and resilience, driving professionals to excel and inspire.
- **Positive Attitude:** Shapes a constructive work environment, fosters problem-solving, and enhances client relationships. It's a key driver of motivation and satisfaction in the industry.

Have students reflect on the importance of these skills in the context of the furniture industry.

In a short paragraph, ask students to explain how effective communication, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude contribute to success in manufacturing careers. Encourage them to think about how these skills connect to their own skills.

### REFLECTION (10 minutes)

✓ Call a few volunteers to read their reflections.

#### Lower Level

Provide sentence starters for students.

#### Higher Level

Encourage students to add examples of real-life scenarios in which furniture finishers might use these skills.

### WRAP-UP & REFLECTION (15 min)

Review the key points discussed throughout the lesson. Emphasize the role of the furniture industry, the insights gained from the group work, and the significance of soft skills. Encourage students to consider the impact of effective communication and a positive attitude on their own career aspirations.

Distribute exit slips to students.

Ask for a few volunteers to share their reflections.

Collect and review the answers.

## Math Practice

**Directions:**

- Solve the problems below using a number line diagram or place value concepts.

1. A furniture showroom has a sofa that is 7 feet long and a coffee table that is 3 feet long. Calculate the total length of the sofa and coffee table.
2. A dining room table is 6 feet long, and there are four chairs, each 2 feet long. Calculate the total length of the table and chairs.
3. A bookshelf in a furniture store is 5 feet long. If a customer buys two bookends, each measuring 1 foot, how long is the space occupied by the bookshelf and bookends on a number line?
4. A bedroom dresser is 4.5 feet long. After removing two drawers, each 1.2 feet long, how can you represent the remaining length of the dresser on a number line?
5. A furniture warehouse has a section for sofas that is 15 feet long and another section for recliners that is 8 feet long. What is the combined length of these two sections on a number line?
6. A furniture manufacturer produces 325 chairs in one day and then produces an additional 480 chairs the next day. How many chairs have they produced in total?
7. A furniture finisher receives an order for 560 wooden cabinets and completes 380 of them. How many more cabinets does the finisher need to complete the order?
8. A carpenter has 650 feet of wood planks in their workshop. They use 325 feet of wood to create custom bookshelves. How much wood is left in the workshop?
9. A furniture showroom has 780 square feet of floor space. They want to allocate 350 square feet for sofas and the rest for dining tables. How many square feet are designated for dining tables?
10. A furniture delivery truck can carry 450 pounds of furniture at a time. If they have already loaded 280 pounds of furniture, how many more pounds of furniture can they load to reach their maximum capacity?

## Reflection Exit Slip

In one sentence, describe what you learned in this lesson.

Today, I learned \_\_\_\_\_.

Is one of the careers discussed today of interest to you? Why or why not?

I liked / did not like \_\_\_\_\_ career because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything you still need help understanding?

What's one question you have?

Circle the emoji that shows how you feel about your mastery of content in this lesson.



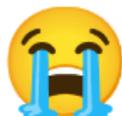
Happy



Smart



Confused



Sad



Angry