The Interest-A-Lyzer

by

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University of Connecticut

Name ___________________________ Age ______________

School ___________________________ Grade _____________

Date ______________

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help you become more familiar with some of your interests and potential interests. The questionnaire is not a test and there are no right or wrong answers. Your answers will be completely confidential. You may want to talk them over with your teacher or other students, but this choice is entirely up to you.

Some of the time that you spend on enrichment activities will be devoted to working on individual or small-group projects. We would like you to work on projects that are of interest to you, so it is necessary for you to do a little thinking to know what some of your interests might be.

A good way for you to get in touch with your interests is to think about some of the things you like to do now and also some of the things you might like to do if the given the opportunity. Some of the questions that follow will be "Imagine if..." questions, but keep in mind that their only purpose is to have you think about the choices you would make in an imaginary situation.

As you read the questions try not to think about the kinds of answers that your friends might write or how they might feel about your answers. Remember, no one will see your answers if you want to keep them confidential.

Do not try to answer the questions now. Read them over and think about them for a few days and then write your answers. Please do not discuss the questionnaire with others at this time. Sometimes we can be influenced by the opinions of others and this influence may prevent you from exploring some of your own interests. Remember, the purpose of The Interest-A-Lyzer is to get YOU to THINK about YOUR OWN INTERESTS.
Imagine that your class has decided to create its own Video Production Company. Each person has been asked to sign up for his or her first, second or third choice for one of the jobs listed below. Mark your first choice with a 1, second choice with a 2, and third choice with a 3.

- ____ Actor/Actress
- ____ Director
- ____ Musician
- ____ Business Manager
- ____ Costume Designer
- ____ Computer Effects Specialist
- ____ Scenery Designer
- ____ Prop Person
- ____ Light/Sound Person
- ____ Advertising Agent
- ____ Camera Operator
- ____ Script Writer
- ____ Dancer

Imagine that you have become a famous author of a well-known book. What is the general subject of your book? Circle One.

- Fine Arts
- Business
- Science
- Writing
- History
- Social Action
- Athletics
- Mathematics
- Performing Arts
- Technology

What will it be about?
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________

What would be a good title for your book?
__________________________________________
3. Computers and telephone technology allow us to communicate with people all over the world. Imagine that your school has installed an Internet or telephone system that will allow you to communicate with anyone in the world. With whom would you correspond?

First Choice ___________________________________________________
Second Choice _________________________________________________
Third Choice ___________________________________________________

4. Imagine that a time machine has been invented that will allow famous people from the past to travel through time. If you could invite some of these people to visit your class, who would you invite?

First Choice _________________________________________________
Second Choice _______________________________________________
Third Choice _________________________________________________

5. Are you a collector? Do you collect stamps, coins, autographs, baseball cards, or other things? List the things that you collect and the number of years you have been collecting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things I Collect</th>
<th>Number of Years I Have Been Collecting</th>
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Imagine you have the time and the money to collect anything you wanted. What would you collect?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
6. Imagine you have the opportunity to travel to a new and exciting city. You can select three places to visit. Mark your first, second and third choice by placing a 1, 2, and 3 in the spaces below.

   _____ Art Gallery               _____ Science Center
   _____ Professional Sport Training Camp  _____ Ballet or Modern Dance
   _____ Historical Sites             _____ Musical Concert
   _____ Stock Market                 _____ State Senate Meeting
   _____ Television Studio           _____ Computer Center
   _____ Planetarium                 _____ Court Room
   _____ Telecommunications Center   _____ Zoo
   _____ Symphony Orchestra          _____ Stage Play
   _____ 3-Dimensional Multi-Media Film  _____ Newspaper Office

Imagine that you have been assigned to a space station for your next school year. You are allowed to take a few personal possessions (books, games, hobbies, projects) with you to help you spend your free time.
List the things you would take.

_____________________________________
_____________________________________
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7. Imagine that you can spend a week “job shadowing” any person in your community to investigate a career you might like to have in the future.
List the occupations of the persons you would select.

First Choice  __________________________________________________
Second Choice __________________________________________________
Third Choice  __________________________________________________
Newspapers often have special feature columns or sections such as the ones listed below. Imagine you have been given a job as a feature writer. Which of the following columns would you like to write? Mark your first, second, and third choice with a 1, 2, and 3.

1. Movie Reviews
2. Book Reviews
3. Political Cartoons
4. Local History
5. Stock Market Analysis
6. Personal Advice
7. Video Game Reviews
8. Editorials
9. Famous People
10. Cars and Bikes
11. Travel
12. Internet Connections
13. Social Action News

14. Fashion Column
15. Science Facts
16. Cross Word Puzzles
17. Camping
18. Music Critic
20. Humor
21. Mathematics Puzzles
22. Advice on Chess
23. Sports Analyst
24. Pet Care
25. Computer Column
26. Advice to Consumers
Some schools offer extra-curricular activities and clubs that coincide with student interest areas. In fact, students sometimes don't know they have an interest in something until they get to try it out in a club or activity. Enrichment Clusters are another good place to find out about interest areas. Listed below are some examples of clubs, activities, and clusters.

Mark the ones that you have been involved in with an "X". Circle the ones you would like to try someday.

_____ Newspaper _____ Language Club
_____ Yearbook _____ Collections Club
_____ 4-H _____ Ecology Club
_____ Girl or Boy Scouts _____ Drama
_____ Cooking Club _____ Invention Convention
_____ Math Club _____ Science Club
_____ Chess _____ Literary Magazine
_____ Babysitting Club _____ Computer Club
_____ Math Olympiad _____ Future Problem Solving
_____ Odyssey of the Mind _____ Sports (List here):

___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________

Are there any we forgot? You can use space below to tell us which clubs, activities, or clusters you have participated in:
Many people take part in activities that are not connected with school work or the extra-curricular activities organized by the school. Listed below are examples of such activities. Indicate how often you have participated in each activity by marking the appropriate column. Please do NOT check any activities that were part of your school work or were organized by the school which you attend.

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<th></th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Seldom</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Often</th>
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<td>1. Wrote a short story, play or poem.</td>
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<td>2. Repaired a broken radio, toy, machine or piece of furniture.</td>
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<td>3. Conducted a science experiment.</td>
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<td>4. Programmed a computer.</td>
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<td>5. Printed a newspaper.</td>
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<td>6. Took photographs of landscapes, interesting people or unusual objects.</td>
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<td>7. Studied the weather by keeping daily records of temperature, barometric pressure, rain fall etc.</td>
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<td>8. Used the Internet to locate information.</td>
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<td>9. Organized a team or club.</td>
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<td>10. Organized a musical group.</td>
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<td>11. Was a member of a musical or theatrical group.</td>
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<td>13. Started a business (for example: car wash, bicycle repairs, lemonade stand).</td>
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<td>15. Painted or sketched interesting people, objects or landscapes.</td>
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<td>16. Used a computer graphics program to design original artwork.</td>
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<td>17. Wrote a letter or sent e-mail to the editor of a newspaper or a public official (Mayor, Congressperson, etc.).</td>
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<td>18. Learned to play a musical instrument.</td>
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<td>19. Wrote a song, opera or other musical composition.</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Learned a handicraft such as weaving, wood carving, or making jewelry.</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Designed costumes, clothes or furniture.</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Entered a contest (Example: chess, writing, art, athletic).</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Put on a backyard show (circus, magic show, exhibition).</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>Built or designed a vehicle (model aircraft, rocket, hot air balloon, go-cart).</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Developed film and printed photographs.</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Created a spread sheet program to keep track of finances.</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>Designed a physical fitness program for yourself.</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>Learned another language.</td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td>Made up and used a secret code.</td>
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<td>30.</td>
<td>Used a computer software program to create a newsletter.</td>
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<td>31.</td>
<td>Kept a journal or diary for over a year.</td>
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<td>32.</td>
<td>Made and recorded observations of people or animals on a regular basis.</td>
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<td>33.</td>
<td>Planted and cultivated a garden.</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>Started a neighborhood project (paper drive, building a park, recycling program, etc.).</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Read a news, science or literary magazine on a regular basis.</td>
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<td>36.</td>
<td>Raised animals to sell or to enter in a show or contest.</td>
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<td>37.</td>
<td>Made a video.</td>
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<td>38.</td>
<td>Performed as a comic, using original material.</td>
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<td>39.</td>
<td>Designed and maintained a computer bulletin board.</td>
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