Daily Digest Conversation Cards
Theme: Career
Focus: Interesting Ozark Jobs

Daily Digest Cards
Theme: Career
Focus: Interesting Ozark Job Descriptions

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Focus Mission: The purpose of this focus is to inform students about environmental career opportunities in the Ozarks.

Focus Delivery Method:

Target Audience: Middle and High school students
Course length: 5-10 minutes
Course setting: classroom, after school during snack time

Focus Learning Objectives:

After engaging in the conversation prompts about jobs in the Ozarks, students will be able to:
1. Identify three environmental career opportunities local to the Ozarks.

Focus Prompt Outline:
1. Incident Commander for the Mark Twain National Forest
2. Firefighters
3. Reintroducing Elk

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Prompt 1. Incident Commanders

Prompt Description: The purpose of this prompt is to introduce students to the job field of incident commander.

Prompt Learning Objectives:
1. Identify three environmental career opportunities local to the Ozarks.

Source:
- [Feral Hogs in Missouri](#)
- [Mark Twain National Forest feral hog elimination update -- Working together is working!](#)

Facts in Quiz Format:
- **Title**: What an Incident Commander Does
- **Instruction**: Amy Salveter is an Incident Commander for the Mark Twain National Forest. Part of her job is to eliminate _____, an invasive species that can destroy 10-20 acres of crops overnight.
- **Question/Answers**:
    - **Feral hogs**
    - Rabid raccoons
    - Ozark sasquatches
    - African prairie dogs
- **Explanation**: Interested in a career like Amy's? Pursue a four-year degree in Wildlife Management. Programs are available at most Ozark colleges.

Follow-up Conversation Starters:
- The feral hog population grows, when unrestrained, 126% annually. How would you go about controlling their spread?

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Prompt 2. Firefighters

Prompt Description: The purpose of this prompt is to equip students with the job description, educational requirements, and benefits of becoming a wildland firefighter in the Ozarks.

Prompt Learning Objectives:
1. Identify three environmental career opportunities local to the Ozarks.

Sources:
- [Mark Twain National Forest firefighters help battle massive western wildfires](#)
- [What Is a Wildland Firefighter and How to Become One](#)

Facts in Quiz Format:
- **Title**: Where Firefighting Can Take You
- **Instruction**:
- **Question/Answers**: In September of 2020, a 70-person team of Mark Twain National Forest firefighters took 4 trucks and 1 bulldozer from Missouri to _____ to prevent towns from being destroyed in a 31,000 acre fire.
  - **California**
  - Colorado
  - the Sahara Desert
  - Texas
- **Explanation**: To begin fighting fires in Missouri, you must have a high school diploma and pass a physical test.

Follow-up Conversation Starters:
- Some programs require applicants to carry a 45-pound pack three miles in 45 minutes. Could you pass the test?
- If you could be a part of a fire crew in any part of the country, where would you want to go? Why?

Prompt 3. Reintroducing Elk in Missouri

Prompt Description:

Prompt Learning Objectives:

Sources:
- MDC announces initial plan for Missouri elk hunting
- Wildlife Biologist Salary in Missouri

Facts in Quiz Format:
- **Title**: Reintroducing Elk in Missouri
- **Instruction**: After being hunted to extinction in Missouri in the 1800s, Wildlife Biologist Aaron Hildreth helped reintroduce 100+ elk into a portion of the state in 2011-13. How many wild elk are in the state today?
- **Question/Answers**:
  - 50+
  - 100+
  - **200+**
  - 500+
- **Explanation**: Wildlife Biologists work with animals in plains, forests, rivers, lakes, and caves across the state. Their average salary in the state is $51,205.

Follow-up Conversation Starters:
- If you were a Wildlife Biologist, what animal species would you want to work with?