Aircraft Maintenance Technicians

OVERVIEW
Aircraft maintenance technicians are highly observant, detail-oriented, dexterous professionals who inspect, maintain, and repair different types of aircraft, including helicopters, jets, and piston-driven airplanes. They interpret gauges and use diagnostic tools to conduct tests of instruments and parts of aircraft. They study flight information and examine parts to identify mechanical and electrical issues. They read complex manuals to learn repair procedures and utilize a variety of hand and power tools to replace defective parts and address problems. Finally, aircraft maintenance technicians conduct inspections to ensure completed work is up to standard and keep records of repair work. Although many aircraft maintenance technicians work on different parts of aircraft, many become experts on one section, such as the engine, the hydraulic system, or the electrical system. Others specialize on a single aircraft type.

EVALUATE YOUR INTEREST
☐ I enjoy diagnosing problems and then fixing things, especially items with engines and motors.

☐ I like figuring out how things work and identifying the importance of the various component parts of complex items.

☐ I am dexterous; I have excellent hand-eye coordination and can use my fingers and hands to work on parts that might be in tight places.

☐ I am able to use instruction manuals to complete complicated, multi-step tasks.

☐ I am a problem-solver. I have a knack for asking smart questions that help others identify problems and issues. I work with others to formulate solutions to problems.

☐ I enjoy working with a wide variety of tools.

www.STEMCareersCoalition.org
TAKE ACTION

☐ Consult manuals and online resources to learn more about the workings of mechanized items in your home, such as appliances, vehicles, and yard equipment. When possible, assist with repair work on these items, learning to use a variety of tools and your hands to replace, adjust, and manipulate parts.

☐ Visit a flea market or thrift store and acquire an inexpensive, old bicycle, appliance, power tool, or other mechanized or complex item. Use tools and your hands to take the item apart, study how it works, and reassemble it. Make observations about differences between the item you acquired and newer, improved versions.

☐ Join an organization or take a class at school that assembles or repairs mechanized items. Examples might include a small engine repair course, the robotics team, or mechanical sculpture.