

# Ken the Heavy Equipment Operator

## Activity Booklet

### Part A: True or False

Read each statement to determine if it is true or false.

1. Is Ken a heavy equipment operator?      True      False
  
2. Has Ken been an operator for less than 30 years?      True      False
  
3. Is the term "heavy equipment" used to describe large machines used in construction only?      True      False
  
4. Can heavy equipment operators run only one type of machine?  
True      False
  
5. Is an excavator used to dig only small holes?      True      False
  
6. Can a bulldozer be used to move materials in multiple directions?  
True      False
  
7. Is a telehandler used to move only light materials?      True      False
  
8. Are landfill compactors used to compact dirt?      True      False

9. Do skid steers turn by changing the angle of the wheels or tracks?

True      False

10. Is a high school diploma a requirement to become a heavy equipment operator?

True      False

11. Did Ken first learn how to operate heavy equipment by taking courses?

True      False

12. Do heavy equipment operators in large cities typically make less money than

those in smaller communities?      True      False

13. Did Ken get his Class D license after starting his career in the construction

industry?      True      False

14. Did Ken's employer hire him because of his experience using heavy equipment?

True      False

## **Part B: Fill in the Blanks**

Use the words provided to fill in the blanks.

certificate	minor	dump
forks	transport	earth
foundations	roads	less money
operators	construction	mining
certificate	attachments	

1. Heavy equipment is used in the construction, forestry, agriculture and \_\_\_\_\_ industries.
2. Excavators are used to dig \_\_\_\_\_, trenches and large holes.
3. A bulldozer is used to move \_\_\_\_\_, rock and other materials.
4. A backhoe is used to do excavation, grading and digging in \_\_\_\_\_ and agriculture.
5. A grader is used to create a smooth and level surface and is used on construction sites and to maintain and repair \_\_\_\_\_ and highways.
6. A telehandler, also known as a telescopic handler, is used to move heavy material or equipment and can have many different attachments including \_\_\_\_\_, buckets and platforms.
7. A dump truck is a vehicle used to transport loose material in construction and \_\_\_\_\_.

8. A compactor is used to make waste, soil and other substances smaller and denser for easier \_\_\_\_\_ and disposal.
9. A skid steer is a smaller machine that can assist with construction and landscaping projects by adding different \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Heavy equipment operators may do routine maintenance on their machinery and check fluid levels, inspect belts and hoses, and make \_\_\_\_\_ repairs.
11. To become a heavy equipment operator, you can take courses to get a \_\_\_\_\_ or learn on the job.
12. Operators in large cities make more money, but often only work in one type of machine, while operators in smaller communities do a wide variety of work and run different machines but typically make \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Ken got his Class D license which allowed him to drive a \_\_\_\_\_ truck.
14. Ken started his career as a general labourer and helper, doing digging by hand, cleaning up job sites and measuring sites and estimating grades. He learned by asking questions and watching other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Part C: Multiple Choice**

Choose the correct answer.

1. What does Ken do for a living?
  - a) Construction worker
  - b) Heavy equipment operator
  - c) Excavator operator
  - d) General laborer
  
2. What type of industry does Ken work in as a heavy equipment operator?
  - a) Agriculture
  - b) Mining
  - c) Construction
  - d) Forestry
  
3. What is an excavator used for?
  - a) To transport loose material
  - b) To make waste and soil smaller and denser
  - c) To dig foundations and trenches
  - d) To level and smooth soil
  
4. What is a grader used for?
  - a) To move heavy material or equipment
  - b) To transport loose material
  - c) To make waste and soil smaller and denser
  - d) To create a smooth and level surface

5. What is a telehandler used for?
  - a) To move heavy material or equipment
  - b) To transport loose material
  - c) To make waste and soil smaller and denser
  - d) To dig foundations and trenches
6. How does a skid steer turn?
  - a) By angling its blade
  - b) By speeding up either the left or right side of the vehicle
  - c) By adjusting the blade to different angles and heights
  - d) By using levers and pedals
7. What kind of maintenance do heavy equipment operators do on their machinery?
  - a) Check fluid levels, inspect belts and hoses, and make minor repairs
  - b) Create a smooth and level surface
  - c) Move earth, rock, and other materials
  - d) Transport loose material
8. How did Ken first learn to become a heavy equipment operator?
  - a) By taking heavy equipment operator courses
  - b) By on-the-job training
  - c) By having a high school diploma or equivalent
  - d) By having a Class D license

### **Part D: Grammar Practice**

Rewrite the following sentences with capital letters and proper punctuation.

1. ken is a heavy equipment operator
2. he has been an operator for more than 30 years
3. heavy equipment is the term used to describe the large machines that are used in construction forestry agriculture and mining
4. an excavator is used to dig foundations trenches and large holes
5. if you want to become a heavy equipment operator there are courses you can take to get a certificate

6. ken started his career by getting his class d license

7. he worked as a general labourer and helper

8. he started by doing digging that needed to be done by hand

9. he cleaned up job sites

10. sometimes he ran a small packing machine



Choose the correct form of the verb in each sentence.

1. Ken is a heavy equipment operator who \_\_\_\_\_ (has, had) been working in the industry for over 30 years.
2. Heavy equipment \_\_\_\_\_ (describes, is described) as the large machines used in construction, forestry, agriculture, and mining.
3. Ken operates in the construction industry and \_\_\_\_\_ (runs, ran) many different types of heavy equipment.
4. An excavator \_\_\_\_\_ (is used, uses) to dig foundations, trenches, and large holes.
5. A bulldozer \_\_\_\_\_ (moves, is moved) earth, rock, and other materials.
6. The operator of a backhoe \_\_\_\_\_ (uses, is used) the machine for excavation and grading.
7. A grader \_\_\_\_\_ (creates, is created) a smooth and level surface by using its long blade.
8. A telehandler \_\_\_\_\_ (is used, uses) to move heavy material and equipment with its telescopic boom arm.
9. A dump truck \_\_\_\_\_ (transports, is transported) loose material in construction and mining.
10. Compactors \_\_\_\_\_ (make, are made) waste, soil, and other substances smaller and denser.
11. Skid steers \_\_\_\_\_ (are used, use) for a variety of tasks and can have different attachments.

12. Operators in large cities \_\_\_\_\_(make, are made) more money but often only work with one type of machine.
13. Operators in smaller communities \_\_\_\_\_(do, are done) a wider variety of work and run different machines but typically make less money.
14. Ken started his career by getting his Class D license and \_\_\_\_\_ (was hired, hired) by a small construction company.
15. Ken \_\_\_\_\_(started, was started) his career as a general labourer and helper.
16. He \_\_\_\_\_(asked, was asked) many questions and learned by watching other operators.
17. Once his employer got to know him, he \_\_\_\_\_(started, was started) the machines up and helped with simple maintenance.
18. Over time, Ken \_\_\_\_\_(became, was become) more experienced and eventually became a heavy equipment operator.

### **Part E: Short Answer**

Using your best spelling, punctuation, and grammar write a short answer to the following questions.

1. What is the term used to describe the large machines used in construction, forestry, agriculture, and mining?
2. In which industry does Ken work as a heavy equipment operator?
3. What does a bulldozer have to move earth, rock, and other materials?
4. What is a backhoe used for?
5. What is a compactor used to make easier to transport and dispose of?

6. What do heavy equipment operators do for routine maintenance on their machinery?
7. What do some employers require for heavy equipment operators?
8. How did Ken start his career as a heavy equipment operator?
9. What did Ken do as a general laborer and helper when he first started working in the industry?
10. How did Ken learn about being a heavy equipment operator?

## **Part F: Writing Activity**

Choose activity A or B and complete.

### **Activity A**

Instructions: Write a 3-5 paragraph essay on heavy equipment operations. In your essay, be sure to include the following information:

1. Explain what heavy equipment is and what it is used for.
2. Describe the different types of heavy equipment and their uses.
3. Explain the importance of routine maintenance for heavy equipment.
4. Discuss the qualifications required to become a heavy equipment operator.
5. Provide an example of someone who became a heavy equipment operator and explain how they got started in their career.

Additionally, be sure to use descriptive language and provide specific details about each type of heavy equipment and the tasks that a heavy equipment operator might perform.

Remember to use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and to organize your essay in a clear and logical manner.

Please note: You may need to include your own research to expand on the information in the story.

## Activity B

Instructions: Imagine you are writing a profile about Ken, a heavy equipment operator, for a construction industry magazine. Your article should be between 300-500 words and should include the following information:

- Ken's background and experience as a heavy equipment operator
- The role of heavy equipment operators in the construction industry
- An explanation of some of the most common types of heavy equipment (excavators, bulldozers, backhoes, graders, cranes, dump trucks, compactors, and skid steers)
- What it takes to become a heavy equipment operator (training, certifications, etc.)
- Ken's journey to becoming a heavy equipment operator, including how he got his start in the industry and any challenges he faced along the way
- The differences between working as a heavy equipment operator in a large city and a rural community, including salaries and responsibilities
- Ken's thoughts on the future of the construction industry and what advice he would give to someone considering a career as a heavy equipment operator.

Please note: You may need to include your own research to expand on the information given in the passage.



### **Part G: Job Research**

Using the Canadian or Ontario Job Bank or another online job site, find a job posting for a heavy equipment operator. Print off a copy of the job posting (or take a screenshot) and hand it in with your activity booklet. Answer the following questions:

1. Which site did you use?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Where is this job located?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What education is required?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What are 3 of the main duties or tasks listed on the job posting?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Does the job posting tell you the salary or rate of pay? If yes, what is it?



## **Part H: Skills for Success Connection**

Skills for Success are the skills needed to participate and thrive in learning, work and life. There are nine skills for success.

1. Adaptability
2. Collaboration
3. Communication
4. Creativity and innovation
5. Digital
6. Numeracy
7. Problem Solving
8. Reading
9. Writing

Choose 3 Skills for Success. For each skill you choose, write one task a heavy equipment operator would do that is related to that skill.

Skill	Task