FACTivity

Time Needed
One class period

Materials
• List of spelling bee words from “A Burning Question” FACTivity
• Additional spelling bee words are available online at: http://naturalinquirer.org

Methods

Before students turn to this FACTivity, have them close their monographs so the words cannot be seen.

The following 70 words can be used for a spelling bee in your classroom. Each of these 70 words (or phrases) was used in the “A Burning Question” monograph. You may conduct your spelling bee in the usual way; when a student misspells a word, he or she is eliminated from the bee. Alternatively, you may also continue without elimination by simply keeping score of right and wrong spellings.

The format for spelling bees is as follows: The reader will say, for example: “Drought. Flowers wilted as the drought continued. Drought.” The reader should speak clearly and carefully. The speller returns with: “Drought. D-R-O-U-G-H-T. Drought.” A student may be recruited to be the reader. Another student may be recruited to write each correctly spelled word on the white board.
A BURNING QUESTION SPELLING BEE

1. Aircraft. *The aircraft roared across the sky, making us all look up.*

2. Alaskan. *The visitors marveled at the Alaskan glaciers.*

3. Application. *Tanya filled out an application for a weekend job.*

4. Arson. *From the charred remains, the detectives suspected arson in the woods behind the new house.*

5. Assumption. *Making an assumption before knowing the facts may not be the best idea.*

6. Authority. *Teachers have authority over students in the classroom.*

7. Billboard. *Seeing the billboard reminded Lee to buy orange juice on his way home.*

8. Bole. *The tree trunk, or bole, had begun to rot on the forest floor.*


10. Calculating. *The shopper began calculating the total cost of all of her items.*

11. Campaigns. *Some election campaigns include heated debate, while others seem relatively quiet.*

12. Campfire. *The campers liked to sing around the campfire.*

13. Category. *When organizing his clothes, Pablo liked to include color as a category.*

14. Causation. *Scientists are unlikely to point to causation as a reason for change between two variables.*

15. Characteristics. *The students were asked to list the characteristics of good study habits.*

16. Commission. *His father was a popular member of the city commission.*

17. Community. *Sports provide a community for young athletes.*

18. Condition. *What is the condition of the car following the fender bender?*

19. Controlled. *To keep from having any fights, dogs should be controlled at the dog park.*
20. Curious. Everyone was curious after hearing a strange noise in the hallway.
21. Detective. The detective collected clues following the latest burglary.
22. Dissatisfaction. Some of the citizens expressed dissatisfaction with the county’s decision.
23. Drought. Flowers wilted as the drought continued.
24. Duration. A test of long duration may contribute to low test scores.
25. Economist. The economist predicted a healthy shopping season.
26. Effect. The snow’s effect on driving conditions was immediate.
27. Effective. To be effective, do your best.
28. Enthusiastic. The kids were enthusiastic about going to the movie.
29. Escape. Renee’s puppy tried unsuccessfully to escape her enclosure.
30. Evidence. It is usually best to base our decisions on clear evidence.
31. Exhaust. The old car’s exhaust was a menacing dark color.
32. Exist. Do you wonder if unicorns exist?
33. Experiment. The experiment went well until the last 5 minutes.
34. Faulty. A faulty tablet can cause a student a lot of headaches.
35. Federal. Federal and State authorities were involved in the investigation.
36. Fictional. Almost everybody has at least one fictional friend.
37. Fire setting. Fire setting is the act of starting a fire.
38. Fuel. LaRon’s mother stopped for fuel before setting off on her road trip.
39. Hypothesize. Scientists hypothesize as a part of the experimental process.
40. Ignite. Be careful not to ignite a fire.
41. Individual. Each individual student left the building.
42. Journal. Keeping a daily journal is a good idea.
43. Lightning. The lightning was so bright that the nighttime looked like noon.
44. Likelihood. The likelihood of getting lost between your home and your school is minimal.
45. Monograph. The monograph presented one research article on fire prevention.
46. New Mexico. New Mexico is located in the Southwestern United States.
47. **Occurrence.** The occurrence of flooding has been rising.
48. **Opportunity.** Avona welcomed the opportunity to perform in the school play.
49. **Organization.** The school band was known as an organization full of fun-loving students.
50. **Ounce.** An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
51. **Oxygen.** Oxygen is one-third of the fire triangle.
52. **Particular.** The toddler wanted just one particular toy.
53. **Positive.** It is a good idea to stay positive when faced with a challenge.
54. **Prescribed fire.** The forester set a prescribed fire to reduce the amount of brush in the area.
55. **Recorded.** Ms. Samman recorded everyone’s test scores into her computer.
56. **Relationships.** The students looked for relationships between plant health and rainfall amounts.
57. **Smokey Bear.** Smokey Bear reminds us to be careful with wildfire.
58. **Suppress.** Gavin wanted to suppress a smile when he saw his sister trip.
59. **Symbol.** The bald eagle is a symbol of the United States.
60. **Taught.** The older sister taught her younger brother to ride a bike.
61. **Temperature.** The air temperature seems to be higher every summer.
62. **Timber.** Timber is a renewable resource and therefore makes a good material for building.
63. **Tribal.** This article described fire prevention programs on Tribal lands.
64. **Undesirable.** Being the last person in line is often undesirable.
65. **Unemployment.** Unemployment numbers are often used to describe how many people are out of work.
66. **Variable.** The scientist compared one variable with another variable.
67. **Vehicle.** A large vehicle is needed to carry a soccer team.
68. **Volcano.** A volcano eruption is a natural event.
69. **Wildland fire.** Wildland fire has become an important concern in California.
70. **Benjamin Franklin.** Benjamin Franklin was an early American inventor.