



FACTivity

Time Needed

1 class period, more time may be needed for independent research

Materials

- Blank paper or science notebook
- Pencil
- Poster board
- Felt markers (various colors)
- Access to media center or the Internet

The question you will answer in this FACTivity is: How would I use technology to communicate wildland fire safety in the year 2050?

Background

The Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service has three main branches. Research and Development is one of the branches. The research in this article was done by scientists working in the Research and Development branch of the Forest Service. Another Forest Service branch is called State and Private Forestry. Educators working in this branch communicate important information to students and adults. Often, these educators develop educational materials based on the work of Forest Service scientists.

In this FACTivity, you will time-travel to the year 2050. The scientists who conducted this research predicted certain things might happen by the year 2060. By the year 2050, most of the predicted changes will likely be **evident**. If you need to review the scientists' predictions, reread the "Findings" and "Discussion" sections on pages 49-53.

Methods

It is the year 2050. You are a wildland fire safety educator with the Forest Service. You have decided to develop a wildfire safety poster and distribute it to students across the United States.

First, review the scientists' wildfire and climate predictions in this article. You should do additional research in the media center or on the Internet. Good Web sites to visit are <http://www.smokeybear.com/wildfires.asp> and <http://www.firewise.org/information.aspx>. Using felt markers and poster board, create an educational poster about wildfires and wildfire safety. You may also use magazine photos and other resources to create a collage.

Back in the second decade of the 21st century, almost 40 years ago, technology such as smartphones and tablets were changing the way people communicated. Now, in the year 2050, technology has advanced even more. Use your imagination to develop a plan using this advanced technology to distribute your poster to students across the United States.

The first step will be to organize into small groups of 3 to 5 students. Brainstorm for 5 minutes to generate ideas for how and what technology will be used in 2050. When you brainstorm, do not criticize others and let your creative juices flow! You should assign one group member to record your group's ideas. The remainder of the FACTivity may be done individually or in your small group.

Use the graphic organizer in this FACTivity to help you develop your plan. Then, write out your plan using complete sentences, proper grammar, and proper punctuation. If you have time, make oral presentations to the class, describing how technology is helping you to educate others about wildfire safety.

Then, draw your poster using the blank paper and markers. Present your plan and poster to your class. Post the posters in your school. What new technology did you develop? Hold a class discussion about how technology might aid education in the future. Note: You may also send a photo of your poster to jessica@naturalinquirer.org. Some of these posters may be chosen for display on our Web site.



Web Resources

Smokey Bear and Wildfire Information
<http://www.smokeybear.com/wildfires.asp>

Firewise Communities Information
<http://www.firewise.org/information.aspx>

Fire Adapted Communities
<http://www.fireadapted.org>



If you are a trained Project Learning Tree-educator, you may use *Living with Fire* as an additional resource.

Graphic Organizer for Wildfire Safety Education Plan, 2050

What is the wildfire situation in 2050? (For example, are wildfires frequent? Is the average temperature warmer than it was in the second decade of the century so that wildfires are more likely? Are wildfires less likely? Why?)

What is the specific topic of your poster? Develop this topic from your research in the media center or on the Internet.

What are the two main messages of your poster?

What grade level(s) will you reach with your poster?

Your poster will be digitized or otherwise turned into an electronic file. What new technology will you use to share the digital file? Identify at least one technology that you will use in 2050.

Wildfire Safety Education Plan

This Plan Was Developed By:

Poster Title

Specific Poster Topic

Primary Poster Messages

Primary Audience (Grade Level, Type of School)

Digitized Filename

Describe How Your Electronic Poster File Will Be Distributed