

# LESSON 1 WAY BACK WHEN



**Educators:** October 17th is the last day to register your school to participate in the Scripps Spelling Bee without paying a late fee. Visit [nie.newsok.com](http://nie.newsok.com) today for more information!

The term “spelling bee” is an American term that was first used in the mid to late 1800s.

According to Scripps, the most popular theory on how the use of the word “bee” came about originates in Middle English. In Middle English, spoken between the years of about 1000 and 1500, the word *bene* means “a prayer” or “a favor.” A modern British form of this word, *been*, refers to voluntary help offered by neighbors to accomplish a task.

**POLITICAL BEE IS BUZZING FOR JOBS**

*Oklahoman archives, Dec. 17, 1908*

It is assumed, though not known for sure, that “bee” is a shortened version of *been*. The British definition makes sense given that the first uses of the word “bee” had nothing to do with spelling. Instead, they referred to spinning bees, husking bees, apple bees and logging bees, which were common in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

## ACTIVITIES:

1) Read through *The Oklahoman* and write down words that you do not understand. Look up their definitions and then use each word in a sentence.

Word	Definition	Sentence
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2) Look for stories in *The Oklahoman* about past and upcoming events. Which ones, if any, could be classified as a “bee”?

Event	Bee?
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3) Using *The Oklahoman* archives, what are the earliest examples of “bees” that you can find in Oklahoma?

Event	Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



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# LESSON 3 PUT IT ON THE MAP



## 2012 CENTRAL OKLAHOMA SPELLING BEE

*Dive into a  
Sea of Words*

Ever since the first National Spelling Bee was held in 1925, students from 26 states have won the championship, including two from Oklahoma.

Spellers are not only from the United States, though. Students also come from the following U.S. territories: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; as well as the following countries: the Bahamas, Canada, China, Ghana, Jamaica, New Zealand and South Korea.

Here in the Sooner State, the 2011 Central Oklahoma bee champion was from Piedmont, Oklahoma. The spelling bee was held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.



### ACTIVITIES:

Using the map of cities related to last year's Central Oklahoma Scripps Spelling Bee and *The Oklahoman* archives, answer the following questions.

- 1) What is the total distance between the three cities?
- 2) Assuming the roads followed a straight line, how long would it take to drive through the cities at a rate of 60 miles per hour?
- 3) What is at least one historical landmark or event in each of the cities?
- 4) Who is the current mayor of each of the cities?

Visit <http://www.spellingbee.com/champions-and-their-winning-words> to find the list of all National Spelling Bee winners and their hometowns. Create a bar graph and a histogram for the winners by state, and then answer the following questions.

- 1) Which state has sent the most winners to the national bee?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Which state has the biggest spread of years between winners?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) In what years were there two winners? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) What is the average number of winners per state? \_\_\_\_\_

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# LESSON 4 WINNING WORDS



According to Scripps, one of the national bee spellers' favorite words is humuhumunukunukuapuaa, which is the name of a small Hawaiian triggerfish.

Below are some of the Scripps National Spelling Bee winning words that determined champions. There is one from each decade. Learn their spellings as well as their pronunciations and definitions, adapted from Merriam-Webster's Dictionary.

**Gladiolus**, \ˈglā-dē-ō-l s\, (1925): A type of African plant with sword-shaped leaves and colorful flowers.

**Knack**, \ˈnæk\, (1932): A clever trick or way of doing something.

**Initials**, \i-ˈni-sh( -)s\, (1941): The first letters of each word in a full name.

**Vignette**, \vin-ˈyet, vēn-ə\, (1952): A small design, such as a vine of grapes, at the beginning or end of a title page or chapter in a book.

**Abalone**, \ə-b -ˈlō-nē, ˈa-b -ə\, (1968): A type of edible sea snail that clings to rocks.

**Incisor**, \in-ˈsī-z r\, (1975): A front tooth that is adapted for cutting.

**Sarcophagus**, \sär-ˈkə-f -g s\, (1981): Limestone that is turned into coffins.

**Lyceum**, \lī-ˈsē- m, ˈlī-sē-ə\, (1992): A public lecture hall.

**Demarche**, \dā-ˈmārsh, di-, ˈdā-ə\, (2000): A course of action or diplomatic maneuver.

## ACTIVITY:

Now find the winning words in the word search to the right.

O	A	O	S	H	E	U	Y	D	T	E	S	N	I
T	M	O	C	D	L	O	S	S	I	A	N	D	E
D	G	C	S	Y	I	N	C	L	R	G	U	H	T
D	C	A	C	U	E	R	N	H	E	A	C	I	T
I	A	E	E	L	L	I	E	L	O	R	E	U	E
S	U	G	A	H	P	O	C	R	A	S	M	E	N
M	L	E	L	I	I	T	I	M	R	G	A	S	G
O	U	A	A	I	G	C	E	D	R	B	L	I	I
C	N	O	I	P	U	D	C	H	A	I	L	N	V
E	N	E	V	T	K	U	A	L	I	L	H	B	M
S	A	I	N	C	I	S	O	R	A	U	G	A	K
R	N	B	A	E	I	N	C	K	A	K	U	T	I
M	C	N	O	N	E	T	I	E	T	A	S	A	R
U	K	M	R	U	S	S	N	S	N	S	V	O	I

abalone  
demarche  
gladiolus  
incisor  
initials  
knack  
lyceum  
sarcophagus  
vignette

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