

PREPARE

CONCEPT Cause-effect relationships involve at least two events: the reason why something happens (cause) and the result of what happens (effect). A text may include signal words (e.g., *because, since, so, therefore*) to describe these relationships. Other texts may require the reader

to infer a cause-effect relationship. Cause-effect relationships are common in both fiction and nonfiction.

VOCABULARY cause, effect, transition words

MATERIALS Lesson reproducibles, highlighters

INSTRUCT

Turn the classroom lights off.

- Ask students: What just happened?
- Summarize student responses in two written sentences: *I turned off the light and The room got dark.*
- Explain that one sentence describes what happened and the other describes why it happened.

Define the term:

- A **cause** is the reason why an event happens.
- An **effect** is the result of what happens.

Display and distribute the included graphic organizer, a Cause & Effect Chart. Work with students to write each sentence in the appropriate box.

Ask students to identify the transition words that signal cause-effect relationships in the included Sample Sentences. Point out that the clause or sentence that describes *what happened* may come before or after the one that describes *why it happened*.

Define the term:

- **Transition words** are words that connect ideas in a text.

Refer students to the Anchor Chart to reinforce understanding.

PRACTICE

- Display or distribute the included Cause & Effect Illustrations. Have students record each depicted cause and effect in a graphic organizer, like the included Cause & Effect Chart. Then, have students take turns sharing their observations with a partner. Encourage students to use words such as *since, as a result, because, and consequently* to describe the cause-effect relationships.
- Distribute the included sets of Cause & Effect Sentence Strips. Have students match each cause with its logical effect. Then, have them work with a partner to generate two sentences that use transition words. One sentence should start with the cause, and the other should start with the effect (e.g. *Megan had nothing to eat for dessert because Joshua ate the last piece of cake; Joshua ate the last piece of cake, so Megan had nothing to eat for dessert*).
- Distribute the included Cause & Effect Story. Have students underline or highlight transition words in the last paragraph. Then, have them record the each example of cause and effect in a graphic organizer, like the included Cause & Effect Chart.

 **ADAPT****SUPPORT**

- Display and read aloud the included Cause & Effect Examples. Have students give a thumbs-up if the example makes sense and a thumbs-down if it does not. Work together to edit the nonsense examples to show logical cause-effect relationships. Point out any transition words that are used.
- If students have difficulty distinguishing causes from effects, model how to ask clarifying questions. Given the sentence pair *He drank some water/He was thirsty*, for example, ask these questions: Did drinking water cause him to be thirsty? Or, did the fact that he was thirsty cause him to drink water?

EXTEND

- Have students place the included Cause Cards face-down in a pile. Then, have them take turns reading a card aloud and generating a possible effect. Reverse the activity with the included Effect Cards. To further challenge students, have them work together to come up with as many logical effects (or causes) for each card as they can.
- Provide students with a sentence starter, such as *If I wake up late, then....* Then, have them write about a fictional day that might follow. Encourage students to use additional *If ... then* sentences, as well as other cause-effect transition words.

 **CONNECT**

- In content area texts, have students look for descriptions of cause-effect relationships (e.g., causes of soil erosion or effects of pollution). Encourage students to paraphrase the information using transition words.
- To integrate multimedia, have students use an approved search engine to find photos that show cause-effect relationships. Then, have them write captions that use cause-effect transition words to describe the relationship in each photo to create a slideshow presentation.

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER: Cause & Effect Chart

Cause	Effect

Transition Words

as a consequence

for this reason

so

as a result

if ... then

thanks to

because

on account of

therefore

consequently

outcome

this led to

due to

since

thus

SAMPLE SENTENCES

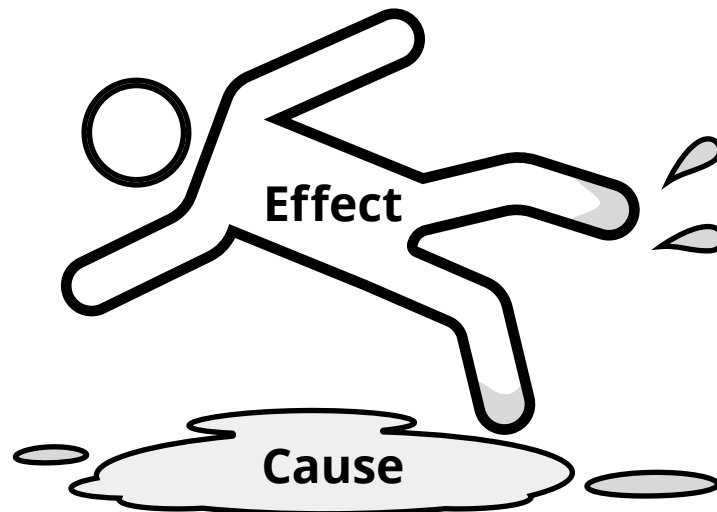
1. Since I turned off the light, the room got dark.
2. The room got dark because I turned off the light.
3. I turned off the light, so the room got darker.
4. I turned off the light. As a result, the room got darker.

ANCHOR CHART

Cause & Effect

A **cause** is the reason why an event happens.

An **effect** is the result of what happens.



He fell because there was a puddle.

There was a puddle. Consequently, he fell.

He fell as a result of the puddle.

Since there was a puddle, he fell.

He fell on account of the puddle.

There was a puddle. For this reason, he fell.

So, what's
in it for me?



If you've made it this far in life, you already know all about cause and effect. Think back to when you were younger... Maybe you were that kid who wondered what would happen if you put a pea up your nose: cause = pea stuck in nose; effect = pain and a visit to the doctor's office. Or, maybe you learned the hard way to check your pockets before putting your pants in the wash: cause = pack of gum in washing machine; effect = saying goodbye to your favorite outfit.

Cause-effect relationships show up all the time in stories and informational texts. Stay on the lookout for causes and effects while you read – maybe you won't have to learn things the hard way.

CAUSE & EFFECT ILLUSTRATIONS

1

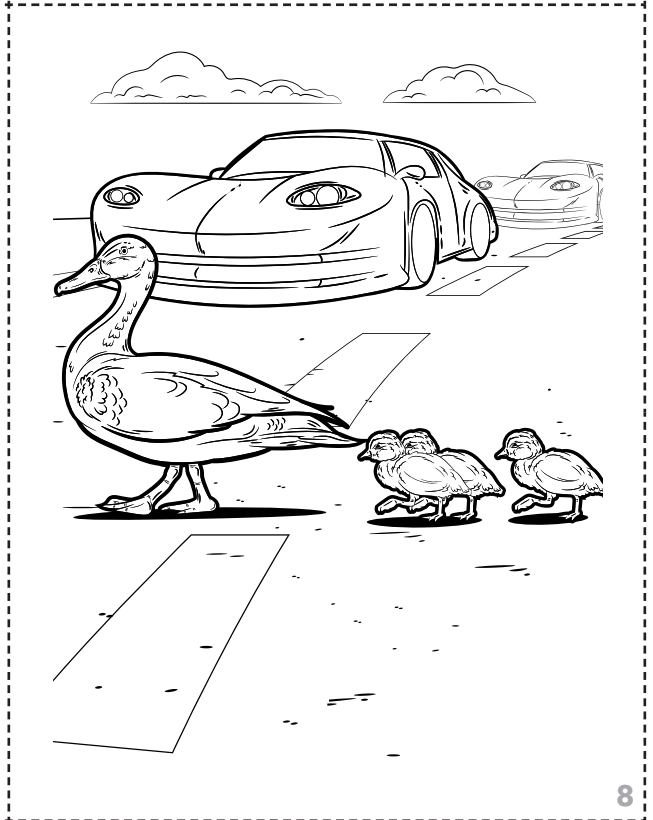
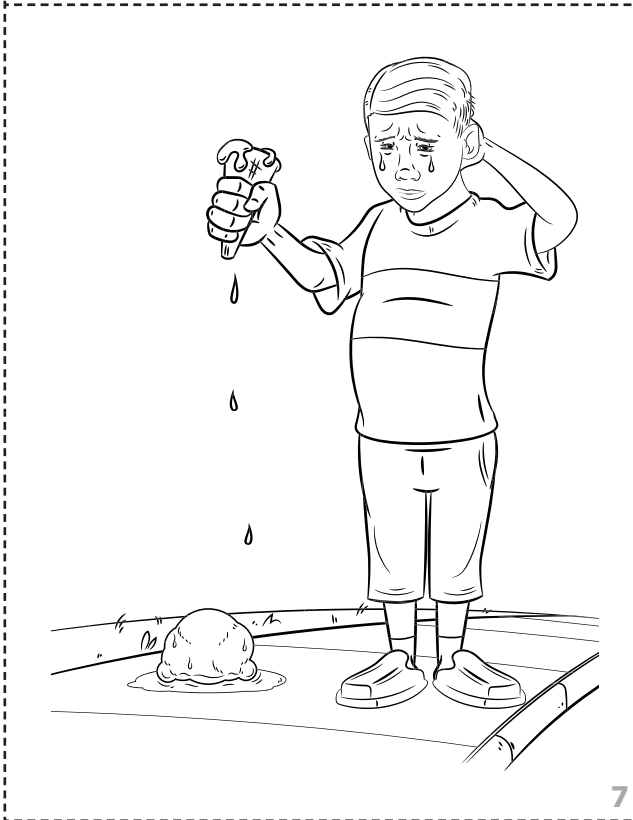
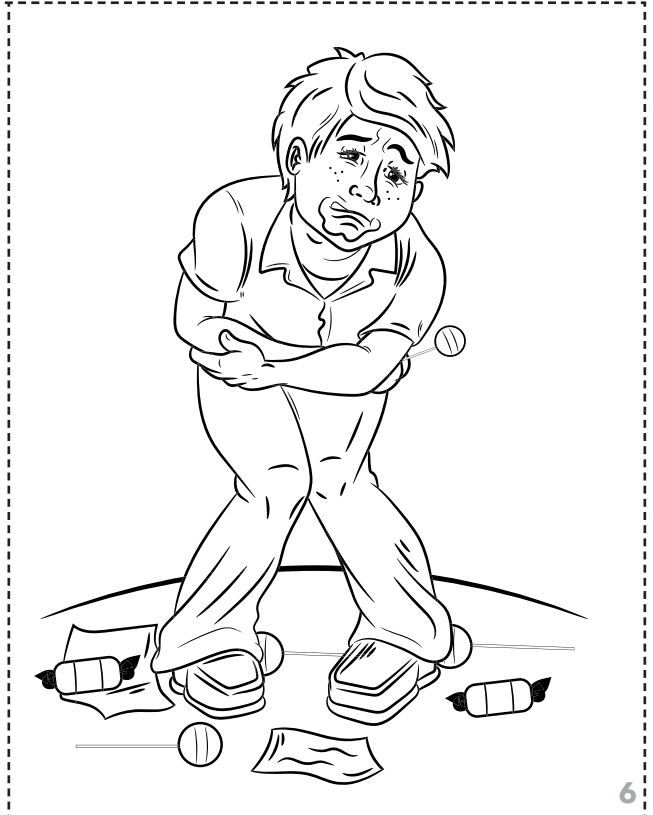
2

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CAUSE & EFFECT ILLUSTRATIONS



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CAUSE & EFFECT SENTENCE STRIPS: Set 1



She made the varsity team the first year she tried out.

1.1

DJ. and Devon are identical twins.

1.2

We had fresh vegetables to eat all summer.

1.3

Joshua ate the last piece of cake.

1.4

It was the hottest day of the summer.

1.5

I used fertilizer and watered my garden every day.

1.6

Megan had nothing to eat for dessert.

1.7

Sophia has played basketball ever since she could walk.

1.8

Serenity's family decided to go to the beach.

1.9

People have trouble telling the two boys apart.

1.10

CAUSE & EFFECT SENTENCE STRIPS: Set 2



Hikers need to find another way to cross the river.

2.1

The temperature outside was below freezing.

2.2

The survival of orangutans, rhinos, and elephants is threatened.

2.3

The tree branch snapped with a loud crack.

2.4

Marcus wore gloves, a hat, a scarf, and his winter coat.

2.5

Tropical rainforests are being cleared to make room for palm oil plantations.

2.6

Heavy rains washed out the bridge on the trail.

2.7

Toby slipped on the floor and fell.

2.8

The startled horse reared up and ran away.

2.9

Water dripped from the leaky pipes onto the floor.

2.10

CAUSE & EFFECT STORY

Long ago, in the days of knights and castles, an army from a faraway land marched toward a peaceful kingdom. The king himself was a peaceful man. He wrote a message to be delivered to the army's leader before nightfall:

Welcome to my Kingdom! I do not want a war. Come to me in peace, and I will share my land and my riches.

The royal messenger called for his fastest horse. He saw that one of the horse's shoes was missing a nail. "I have no time to waste on such small things," he said and galloped away to deliver the king's message.

If only he could have predicted what happened next.

On account of the missing nail, the horse's shoe fell off. The horse could not run without a shoe, so the messenger had to walk. As a result of the messenger's slow pace, the message was not delivered before nightfall. Since the army's leader did not receive the message, he did not know that the king was willing to share his land and his riches. The army attacked the castle because they did not know of the king's peace offer. The attack on the castle led to a war that lasted 100 years.

CAUSE & EFFECT EXAMPLES

1. The weather forecast calls for rain, so she is bringing an umbrella with her.
2. On account of the sunny day, the field trip to the beach was postponed.
3. Due to the recent shark sightings, Far Point Beach is closed for the season.
4. Because Ernest Shackleton was a strong leader, his team of explorers survived in Antarctica.
5. The vase fell off the table when the children bumped it. Consequently, they played tag in the house.
6. Surfers in California wanted a way to “surf” on land. This led to the invention of skateboards.
7. Kudzu grows almost a foot a day in the southern United States because it is called the “vine that ate the South.”
8. Everything that King Midas touched turned to gold. As a result, his daughter became a gold statue when he hugged her.
9. Plants need sunlight and water to grow. Therefore, a cave is an ideal place to start a garden.
10. Kelly is afraid of heights. For this reason, she loves roller coasters.

CAUSE CARDS



Due to the snowstorm, ...

Airplane tickets are expensive. Therefore, ...

He fell off his bicycle. Consequently, ...

Thanks to her new glasses, ...

As a result of leaving my backpack on the bus, ...

On account of the bear in our campsite, ...

EFFECT CARDS



The dog barked loudly because ...

Our team won the state championship thanks to ...

They were late as a result of ...

The baby is crying on account of ...

The forest fire was a consequence of ...

The reason for the celebration is ...

ANSWER KEY

Cause & Effect Illustrations

1. Cause: a banana peel / Effect: person slips
2. Cause: a dog barks / Effect: the cat climbs the tree
3. Cause: a hole in the bag / Effect: groceries spill out
4. Cause: ice cream falls off the cone / Effect: the child cries
5. Cause: a person stays late at a party / Effect: the person falls asleep at work
6. Cause: it rains / Effect: the person gets wet
7. Cause: a person eats too much junk food and candy / Effect: the person feels sick
8. Cause: ducks cross the street / Effect: there is a traffic jam

Cause & Effect Sentence Strips

Set 1

- 2 (cause) and 10 (effect)
- 4 (cause) and 7 (effect)
- 5 (cause) and 9 (effect)
- 6 (cause) and 3 (effect)
- 8 (cause) and 1 (effect)

Set 2

- 2 (cause) and 5 (effect)
- 4 (cause) and 9 (effect)
- 6 (cause) and 3 (effect)
- 7 (cause) and 1 (effect)
- 10 (cause) and 8 (effect)

Cause & Effect Story

Transition words: on account of, so, as a result of, since, because, let to

Cause	Effect
<i>the missing nail</i>	<i>the horse's shoe fell off</i>
<i>the horse could not run</i>	<i>the messenger had to walk</i>
<i>the messenger's slow pace</i>	<i>the message was not delivered before nightfall</i>
<i>the army's leader didn't receive the message</i>	<i>he did not know the king was willing to share</i>
<i>the army's leader didn't know of the peace offer</i>	<i>the army attacked the castle</i>
<i>the attack on the castle</i>	<i>a war that lasted 100 years</i>

Cause & Effect Examples

Sentences 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8 make sense.

Sentence 2 does not make sense: On account of the rainy day, the field trip to the beach was postponed.

Sentence 5 does not make sense: They played tag in the house. Consequently, the vase fell off the table when the children bumped it.

Sentence 7 does not make sense: Kudzu is called the "vine that ate the South" because it grows almost a foot a day in the southern United States.

Sentence 9 does not make sense: Plants need sunlight and water to grow. Therefore, a cave is a terrible place to start a garden.

Sentence 10 does not make sense: Kelly is afraid of heights. For this reason, she does not like roller coasters.