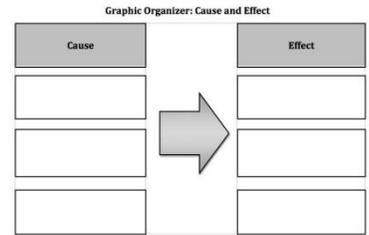


Name: _____

Reading Comprehension
Cause and Effect Strategies and Notes



What is Cause and Effect?

There is a reason for everything that happens. **What** happens is called the **effect**. **Why** it happens is called the **cause**. You can identify examples of **cause** and **effect** almost anywhere.

For example:

Write **what** happens to crops when there is no rain for a long time.

Write **why** this happens.

What happens is the **effect**. **Why** it happens is the **cause**.

How Do You Locate the Cause and Effect?

Not all reading passages tell about cause and effect. You can find examples of cause and effect by thinking about **what** happens in a passage and **why** it happens.

Read the passage below.

Bryan had just finished painting a chair for his grandmother. He stepped back to admire his work and saw a few spots that he missed. Bryan stepped forward to touch up the spots. But Brian wasn't watching where he was going. He stepped right into the can of paint.

Think about what the passage tells you. Let's us find two examples of **cause and effect**.

What happened?	Why did it happen?
Bryan stepped forward to touch up the spots.	He saw a few spots that he missed.

The first box tells **what** happened. This is the **effect**.

The second box tells why it happened. This is the **cause**.

Let's do another example from the same reading passage. Fill in the missing information.

Cause	Effect
Bryan wasn't watching where he was going	

Remember: *What happens and why it happens is called cause and effect. Why something happens is the cause. What happens because of the cause is the effect.*

- **Clue words** such as *so, so that, because, therefore, and reason* often signal the **cause and effect**. Other clue words are *as a result, if...then, and in order to*.

Read this article about light and water. As you read, look for clue words that will help you understand what happens and why it happens. Then answer the questions.

When light hits an object, the light can pass through it, bounce off it, be absorbed by it, or do any of these in combination. In a clear glass full of water, you can see the bottom of the glass. That's because light passes through the glass and the water, and then back to your eye. The surface of a pool or pond can sometimes act as a mirror. You can see your face reflected from the surface of the pond as a result of light bouncing off the water rather than passing through it. Water lets some light pass through it, reflects some light, and absorbs the rest. Objects that let some light pass through unchanged, such as water and glass, are called transparent.

What happens when light passes through a clear glass of water and then back to your eye?

- a) You can see your face reflected in the glass.
- b) You can see the bottom of the glass.
- c) Light bounces off the glass.
- d) You can see the light pass through the glass.

Which clue word or words explains why you can see your face reflected from the surface of a pond?

- a) so that b) because c) as a result d) transparent

The Vikings

The Vikings were skilled warriors and sailors who ruled over much of Europe long ago. The period began around 860 A.D. is now referred to as the Golden Age of the Vikings. During that time, the population of the Vikings began to grow. The climate of the northern Europe was improving, so people were able to grow more food. The use of iron also made it possible to farm more effectively. The food supply increased, and people were able to eat better. Because they were healthier, the Vikings were able to live longer and have more children.

What caused the Vikings to become healthier?

- a) Their population began to grow.
- b) They began to live longer lives.
- c) Their food supply increased.
- d) The Golden Age had begun

Which sentence contains an example of cause and effect?

- a) The period that began around 860 A.D. is now referred to as the Golden Age of the Vikings.
- b) Because they were healthier, the Vikings were able to live longer and have more children.
- c) The Vikings were skilled warriors and sailors who ruled over much of Europe long ago.
- d) During that time, the population of Vikings began to grow.

