

Cause & Effect

Cross-Curricular Focus: Reasoning Skills



Cause and effect is one way to explain things that happen around us. Many things happen because something **caused** or **influenced** them to happen. Sometimes it is hard to look at a cause and figure out the effect. It may help you to start with the effect and use your reasoning skills. Think about all the things you know that could be reasons for the effect you can see.

For example, you may see someone putting on a heavy jacket. This is the effect. To look for a cause, think to yourself, "What would make someone put on a heavy jacket?" Maybe the person is going outside into very cold weather. Maybe the person works in the penguin pen at Sea World. Maybe the person is going to visit an ice skating rink where the air is kept very cold. All of these things could be a cause for putting on a heavy jacket.

Now, think about another example. The effect is that the student had to go to the principal's office. What are the possible causes? Maybe the student bullied another student. Maybe the student is just being picked up early. Maybe the student is being given a prize!

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

The effect is: your clothes are wet.

Write two possible causes:

1. _____

2. _____

The effect is: you got an A+ on your spelling test! Write two possible causes:

3. _____

4. _____

5. In your own words, explain something you learned about cause and effect.
