

Lesson Planning Page: Reading: Literature & Informational Text: Craft and Structure: Cause and Effect



Lesson Title:

Cause and Effect Matrix

Lesson Introduction:

Begin work as a group, then allow students to work alone or in pairs with others at the same level

- Review idea of cause and effect using familiar examples

Lesson Closure/Summary:

- As a group, talk through the cause and effect pairs they found. Depending on the article, there may be several possibilities that students have identified as cause/effect – some more obvious than others. Multiple pairs may be correct. Discuss with students.

Related Common Core State Standards:

9th-10th Grades: Key Ideas and Details

- Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.

6th Grade: Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category) to better understand each of the words.

5th Grade: Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 5 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
 - Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

5th Grade: Craft and Structure

- Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.

4th Grade: Craft and Structure

- Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

3rd Grade: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).

3rd Grade: Key Ideas and Details

- Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

Common Core State Standards

Authors: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, Council of Chief State School Officers

Title: Common Core State Standards (insert specific content area if you are using only one)

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DesCartes Statements:

RIT 221-230: • Gives examples of cause and effect in informational text	Students:
RIT 221-230: • (No Skills Listed)	Students:
RIT 201-210: • (No Skills Listed)	Students:
RIT 191-200: • (No Skills Listed)	Students:
RIT 181-190: • Identifies cause and effect relationships in literary texts	Students:
RIT 171-180: • Identifies cause and effect relationships in literary texts	Students:

Higher-Level Activity:

Lesson/Activity:

- **Review Cause and Effect:** “As we read the article, we’re going to be looking for things that happen as a result of something else.” Provide students with a simple example, such as “If the door closes on my fingers (that’s the cause) then what happens? What is the effect?” (Pain). Explain that there can be multiple effects for a single cause, ie. Eating an entire bag of candy (the cause) may have several effects: making other people mad because they didn’t get any, making you sick to your stomach, making you gain weight, making you not hungry, etc.

- Hand out copies of the appropriate Cause and Effect matrix to students. Give each student an article at an appropriate reading level for each student.

- Begin reading the article as a whole group. Identify a cause and effect that comes up early in the article and have students fill in the chart.

- Have students read the rest of the article and complete the chart either alone or w/ a partner.

- Discuss choices when complete. Look for examples of events that came before an event but that weren’t a cause. (“How did this event affect this other one?”)

Resources: - Copies of **blank** matrix

- Copies of chosen article at appropriate level for students

Means of Assessment: Observation, correct completion of matrix

Mid-Level Activity:

Lesson/Activity:

- Review Cause and Effect (see above)

- Hand out copies of the appropriate Cause and Effect Matrix and an article at an appropriate reading level for each student.

- Begin reading the article as a whole group. Identify 1-2 cause and effect examples early in the article. Have students record on matrix

- Have students read the rest of the article and complete the chart either alone or w/ a partner.

Resources: - Copies of matrix with **left column completed**

- Copies of chosen article at appropriate level for students

Means of Assessment: Observation, correct completion of matrix

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Lower-Level Activity:

Lesson/Activity:

- Review Cause and Effect (see above)
- Hand out copies of the appropriate Cause and Effect Matrix and an article at an appropriate reading level for each student.
- Begin reading the article as a whole group. Have a copy of the matrix on an overhead projector. Identify a cause and effect that comes up early in the article. Talk through the process of identifying the cause and writing it on the chart. Continue reading and identify the effect to add to the chart as a group.
- After modeling the process 2-3 times, continue to read together, but ask students to identify and fill in each effect as you come to them. Discuss students' choices as a group. There may be more than one correct response. Discuss possibilities, particularly if some options are more obvious than others.
- You may choose to complete the activity together or to have students work with a partner to complete the last 2-3 cause/effect pairs on their own.

Resources:

- Copies of matrix with **left column completed** (option: fill in one or two additional cells ahead of time – especially with more complex articles)
- Copy of matrix on overhead transparency to use for modeling the skill
- Copies of chosen article at appropriate level for students

Means of Assessment: Observation, correct completion of matrix

Cause and Effect Matrix Example

	Cause	Effect
Pig #1	The pig builds a house made of straw.	The big, bad wolf blows the house down.
Pig #2	The pig builds a house of wood.	The big, bad wolf blows the house down.
Pig #3	The pig builds a house of bricks.	The house is too strong for the big, bad wolf to blow down.
Big, Bad Wolf	Wants to eat a pig.	Chases the pigs and tries to blow their houses down to get one.