



The Homesick Biker

- 1 When the coronavirus **pandemic** arrived, schools around the world closed. Twenty-year-old Kleon Papadimitriou was studying in Scotland. Because his classes were cancelled, he wanted to go home to Greece.
- 2 However, because of the pandemic, airlines cancelled most flights. Kleon called home, feeling sad. How could he get to Greece? When his father joked that he should start walking, Kleon decided to bike home.
- 3 Kleon's family thought he would forget about this wild plan. The trip would be over 2,000 miles long! He didn't even own a bike. But Kleon didn't forget. He was serious. With no classes, he had time for the long journey. And he felt homesick. So, Kleon bought a bike.
- 4 He carefully planned his journey. Riding 125 miles per day was his **goal**. Because he was biking, he couldn't carry much. He packed a phone, a phone charger, bike tools, some clothes, and a raincoat. He brought canned fish, bread, and peanut butter. Because the trip would be long, he also packed a tent and a sleeping bag.
- 5 On May 10, Kleon was finally ready. His first few days weren't easy. Kleon got lost, had a flat tire, and the weather was bad. He got tired pedaling uphill. Kleon realized 125 miles each day was too hard. He wondered if he would ever get home.
- 6 Then, friends and family started to help. Kleon began to feel more **confident** about his trip. In England, Kleon stayed with a friend for two days. In Germany, he visited his grandmother. He stayed a week, enjoying her company.
- 7 After biking through Italy, Kleon took a ferry to Greece. His excited parents were waiting for him. Forty-eight days after leaving Scotland, Kleon arrived home on June 27.

DIRECTIONS

Read the text, and complete the activity on page 5.

pandemic: a disease that affects an entire country, continent, or world

goal: something that you want to do

confident: believing in yourself



- 8 Kleon will never forget his bike trip home. “I learned a lot of things about myself,” he said. He added that it’s important to set big goals. “You will surprise yourself.”



Connecting Multiple Causes and Effects

Look back at the paragraphs you are assigned to find causes and effects.

Write the causes and effects in the chart. Remember:

- Some causes will have more than one effect.
- Some effects will have more than one cause.
- Sometimes an effect of one thing can become the cause of another.

	Causes	Effects
Paragraphs 1–3	Pandemic	Closed schools Cancelled flights
Paragraphs 4–5		
Paragraphs 6–8		