Name: _____
Reading Comprehension: Cause & Effect
NOT SO HEALTHY LIVING



Today, most people can expect to live well into their 70s and beyond. It was a little different in ancient Egypt. The average age of death was just 19 years old. There were many causes of this. First, was due to diet. Ancient Egyptians, even those that were rich, commonly suffered from malnutrition and hunger. Foods that they did eat, such as bread, could have also been contaminated with sand. This would explain why many mummies have been found with very damaged teeth and signs of dental diseases. Another reason most ancient Egyptians failed to live past 30 was caused by something that also kept them alive; the Nile River. The Nile River, although the very reason people were able to live in Egypt, was also the reason some people in this day met their unlucky end at such an early age. The Nile became quite polluted from people dumping their waste into it. If someone drank the water, there was a chance they could become sick from the contamination. Also, inside of those dark Nile waters were predators like hippos and crocodiles waiting until someone got close enough for them to take a bite. Getting a shot or taking a pill was not an option in Ancient Egypt. Those that were known as doctors treated the sick with herbal treatments which were mostly just useful for getting rid of some of the pain. King Tut, maybe the most famous Egyptian of all time, died at the age of 18. Nobody knows for certain, but those who have studied King Tut's mummified body say that he was injured from falling off of a horse or a chariot. The injury became infected and resulted in a very painful disease that causes your body to rot. There was nothing anyone at this time could do to save him, so King Tut passed away at the same age that most people today graduate from high school or go to college.
Could you have ruled a country as a fourth grader? King Tut was only nine years old when he became king!

Cause	**Effect**
	Many mummies were found to have very worn-down teeth.
You are unexpectedly close to a hippo or crocodile.	
People would dump waste into the Nile River.	
	King Tut died at the age of 18.

LIVEWORKSHEETS