

# Choose the correct option.

## The butterfly effect

Imagine a butterfly in Mexico flapping its wings. Do you think the air that the butterfly moved with its wings could cause a tornado in China? This idea is called the butterfly effect.

We talk about the *butterfly effect* when something that seems small or unimportant causes something very big to happen. Think about our butterfly flying over a river in Mexico. Then, a gust of wind pushes the butterfly, but the butterfly pushes back. Now, because of the tiny force from the butterfly, that gust of wind has changed a little bit. The gust combines with a breeze and becomes more powerful. That breeze travels across the Pacific ocean and crashes into a storm in China. The result is a tornado! Meanwhile, our butterfly is resting on a flower, unaware of the destruction that it has caused!

The idea of the butterfly effect can apply to other situations too. Imagine that your friend is a great artist, but she only draws with colored pencils. She does not have any paint. You remember that you have some paint that you never used, so you decide to give it to her. In ten years, your friend becomes a world-famous painter. She never would have started painting if you had not given her your paint. Your small action had an enormous effect, just like the butterfly that caused the tornado.