Cause and effect

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

Cause and effect are about how one thing can cause something else to happen.

The **cause** is *why* something happened.

The **effect** is *what* happened.

Read about the rock cycle again, and think about **cause** and **effect** as you read.

The Rock Cycle

Rock may seem to last forever, but it is actually always changing. It is always in one of the stages of the rock cycle. The series of events in the rock cycle takes thousands of years. But the cycle is always in motion.

The pressure inside the earth produces enough heat to melt the rock there. This melted rock, or magma, seeps up into the top crust of the earth, or it erupts from volcanoes. In the earth's crust, and around the volcanoes, the magma cools into solid rock. This kind of rock is called igneous rock.

Over time, igneous rock breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. This process, called weathering, produces soil, or sediment.

Water and wind carry the bits of soil into piles called sediment beds. This transportation of the soil to the sediment beds is called erosion. As the sediment is pressed down by more and more sediment on top, the lower levels turn into sedimentary rock.

As more and more layers of sedimentary rock are formed, the layers on the bottom are pushed down deeper. They grow hot from the pressure. Finally, they are heated into magma, and the cycle is complete—and ready to begin again.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What is the **effect** of each **cause**?

1. The pressure deep inside the earth causes extreme heat.
   A. Magma is formed.
   B. Igneous rock is formed.
   C. Sedimentary rock is formed.

2. Magma erupts from a volcano, and cools.
   A. Magma is formed.
   B. Igneous rock is formed.
   C. Soil is formed.

3. Igneous rock breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces.
   A. Igneous rock is formed.
   B. Soil is formed.
   C. Sedimentary rock is formed.

4. Wind and water carry soil into sediment beds.
   A. Igneous rock is formed.
   B. Soil is formed.
   C. Sedimentary rock is formed.

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5. Here is a **cause**: Weathering occurs.
   What is the **effect**?

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6. Here is a **cause**: Erosion occurs.
   What is the **effect**?

LIVEWORKSHEETS
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