

Cause and effect

Objective

To find clues from images and words that explain why something has happened or may happen.

Background knowledge

To be able to justify predictions about story outcomes, children need to understand the meaning of cause and effect and how to apply it effectively. They need to know that the *effect* is what happens, the *cause* is the reason why it happens and the conjunction *because* links the two together. When they understand this, they will be able to explain how actions produce consequences and how a series of incidents can be created from one action. These invaluable investigative skills help them to calculate what may happen next from what has happened before, and why. It relies on a process of literal and inferential thinking; questioning and reasoning that links to their prior knowledge, personal experience and to clues offered by the author and illustrator.

Skills

Explain to the children that these activities will show them how to predict the flow of events in a story narrative.

- **Photocopiable page 47 'A working water mill'**
 - Talk to the children about the purpose of prediction and how some actions have outcomes that can be anticipated. For example, if you don't wear a coat in the rain, you will get wet.
 - Discuss everyday cause-and-effect situations. Encourage the children to talk about things that have happened to them because of their actions or the actions of others.

- Hand out the photocopiable sheet. Explain the term *cause and effect*. Tell the children that what happens is called *effect* and why it happens is the *cause*. When both are linked together by the word *because*, a reason is given for the prediction. For example: *I can't buy anything today because I spent all my money yesterday.*
- Ask the children to read the passage about the water mill on the photocopiable sheet and then read the jumbled pairs of phrases given about this information. The phrases are split into two parts on the page under headings 'effect' and 'cause'. Tell the children to re-organise these statements on a separate piece of paper into sensible sentences that explain why something has happened, using the conjunction *because* to link them meaningfully.
- Then tell them to practise this further by completing the sentences at the foot of the sheet.

Comprehension

● Photocopiable pages 48 and 49 'Birth of an island'

- Hand out both photocopiable sheets. Encourage the children to talk about the clues in the picture and text that they can see, in small groups or pairs.
- Then ask them to answer the prediction questions and generate their own questions and answers.

Digital content

On the digital component you will find:

- Printable versions of all three photocopiable pages.
- Answers to 'Birth of an island (2)'.
● Interactive version of 'A working water mill'.

Cause and effect

A working water mill

The water mill in the village of Otterford in Devon has been a working flour-mill for over 1000 years. There used to be water mills grinding flour on nearly every river in the country. Nowadays almost all of them have fallen into disrepair. When factories were built that could make very inexpensive flour the mills closed down one by one.

Otterford Mill survived by milling and storing grain for animal feed. In 1977 it was restored as a flour-mill. Now it is a very successful tourist attraction. The mill has an award-winning restaurant, a shop selling local produce and a bakery. But still the most important attraction, for the many people who visit, is the working mill.

The process of stone grinding flour has remained unchanged over the centuries. The millstream provides the water to turn the gigantic water wheel. The water wheel then provides the power to turn the huge runner stone. Wheat is ground between the runner stone and another huge stone called the bedstone. The wheat is ground into flour and the flour comes down a chute to the ground floor of the mill where it is sacked and stored. The fresh flour smells wonderful and feels warm to the touch.

At Otterford the flour goes over to the bakery where bread is baked in batches every day. Few people can resist the mouth-watering taste of freshly baked bread.

Elspeth Graham

- Match the cause with the effect below and write them on a separate sheet of paper, using the conjunction **because** to link them. Remember that the word **because** explains **cause**.

Effect	Cause
The water mills closed down after thousands of years.	It milled and stored grain for animal feed.
Otterford Mill survived.	Factories were built that could make inexpensive flour.
Otterford Mill is a very successful tourist attraction.	The millstream provides the water to turn the water wheel.
The water wheel powers the huge runner stone.	The most important draw for many of the people who visit, is the working mill.

- Write your own cause or effect to complete the following sentences.

Effect: Few people can resist bread straight out of the oven

Cause: _____

Effect: _____

Cause: the stone grinding process has always produced good flour.