

Name _____

Date _____

Cause and Effect: Structure

Cause and effect are connected events.	Cause (First)	Effect (Then)
A cause is the <i>first event</i> and the effect is the <i>second event</i> , or resulting action, that happens after the cause.	It rained for three months in India.	There were floods.

Directions: Label the signal words "SW," and underline and label the cause "C" and the effect "E" in different colors. Some signal words may include the following: "because," "due to," "lead to," "since," "as a result," and "if-then" sentences.



Precipitation, or rain, happens because warm air is filled with heavy water droplets and rain falls. When the sun heats up water, it leads to water droplets rising into the air. Water droplets join together in the sky and make clouds. The droplets get bigger in the clouds due to water droplets bumping into each other. Since the droplets get heavier and heavier, they eventually fall as rain.

While most rain does not last very long, monsoon seasons can last for months. A monsoon is a seasonal wind system from the Indian Ocean. It blows from the southwest in the summer and the northeast in the winter. When the wind system hits the southwest, heavy rain begins.

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Every summer, India has storms that never seem to end. The rain can last for up to five months. As a result, large amounts of water cover southern Asia and the Indian Ocean. People and wildlife rely on these seasonal monsoons because the storms help water the crops and replenish rivers. If a monsoon strikes too early in the summer, then dangerous floods can wipe out whole towns. But if a monsoon happens too late, then the lack of water can cause droughts and famine. Famine and drought can cause thirsty plants and hungry people. The balance between the right amount of rain can affect many people.

Challenge: Find cause-and-effect relationships that do not have typical signal words or phrases.