

Cause and Effect

3rd–5th Grade

Objective

CCSS Reading: Informational Text

RI.3.3: Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

Materials Needed

- “The Earthquake that Changed Earth” nonfiction reading selection
- “The Earthquake that Changed Earth” graphic organizer and sample graphic organizer
- Cause & Effect Flip Book template
- Scissors
- Pencils or markers
- A copy of any other nonfiction text



Preparation

Print out a copy of the reading selection, graphic organizer and flip book template for each student. (A sample graphic organizer with possible answers is also provided.)

Procedure

1. Give each student a copy of “The Earthquake that Changed Earth.”
2. Invite students to read along with you as you read the passage aloud (or have student volunteers take turns reading aloud).
3. Tell students that you are going to discuss cause and effect as it applies to the passage you have just read.
4. Explain to students that “cause” refers to an event that caused something else to happen, and “effect” refers to what happened as a result of the cause. To illustrate this, write the following sentence on the board: “Mr. Johnson went to the store because he ran out of milk.” Then ask students to identify the cause (he ran out of milk) and the effect (Mr. Johnson went to the store), emphasizing that running out of milk was the event that caused Mr. Johnson to go to the store.

Guided Practice

1. Divide the class into small groups of three or four students, and provide each student with a copy of the graphic organizer.
2. Have students work together to identify a cause and several effects from the earthquake passage. Encourage them to identify an event that is described in the passage (the cause) that set off a chain of other events (effects). Ask, “What events happened as a result of this one event?”

3. Invite students to share their responses and tell how each effect relates to the cause they identified.

Independent Practice

1. Have students identify three causes and effects from another nonfiction text. You may choose to have students use a classroom text or a book that they are reading independently.
2. Give each student a copy of the Cause & Effect Flip Book template and a pair of scissors.
3. Instruct students to fold the paper in half and cut along the dotted lines, taking care not to cut past the fold.
4. Have students write the title of the text on the first flap.
5. Beneath each of the next three flaps, have students draw a picture and write a sentence about an event from the text.
6. Have students write and draw the cause of each event on the flap.

THE EARTHQUAKE THAT CHANGED EARTH

On May 21, 1960, the people in the country of Chile woke suddenly. The ground under them was shaking! The people knew what was happening right away. It was an earthquake.

An earthquake happens when two blocks of earth suddenly slip past each other. The **energy** from the earth moving causes everything around that spot to shake. That's exactly what happened on May 21. But that earthquake was actually a **foreshock**. A foreshock happens before an even bigger earthquake.

People took cover until the quake ended. The earthquake was a big one. But people did not know there was a much bigger earthquake to come. Soon they would find out what it was like to live through the biggest earthquake in history.

No one knew this earthquake was a foreshock until bigger earthquakes started to happen. The next day the ground in Chile started to shake again. The shaking was so strong that people ran out of the buildings they were in. They knew another big quake had just hit.

The people thought the earthquakes were over. But soon the ground started to shake even harder. This was the strongest shaking that anyone had ever felt. In fact, this was the biggest earthquake ever recorded in history! It measured 9.5 on the **Richter scale**. It was huge!



Since so many people were already outside when this earthquake hit, not too many people were injured. Even so, the earthquake caused a lot of damage.

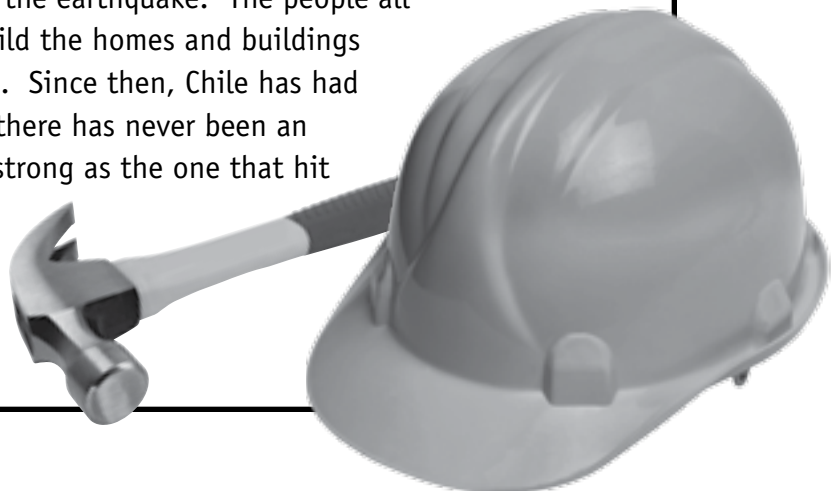


Scientists learned that the center of the earthquake was at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. When the earth around the **epicenter** started to shake, the water in the ocean did, too. This caused a **tsunami** (soo-NAW-mee), or a huge ocean wave. The wave traveled very quickly across the ocean all the way to Hawaii and Japan. Even though these places were very far away from the earthquake, their coasts were damaged by the tsunami.



Chile was the country closest to the epicenter, so Chile had the most damage. The earthquake caused huge **landslides**. Big **boulders** and pieces of land rolled down the mountains. Some landslides were so big that they blocked rivers. This caused the rivers to flow in new paths. New lakes were even formed in some places! Many buildings were destroyed. The tsunami flooded villages near the ocean. The earthquake had changed everything for the people of Chile.

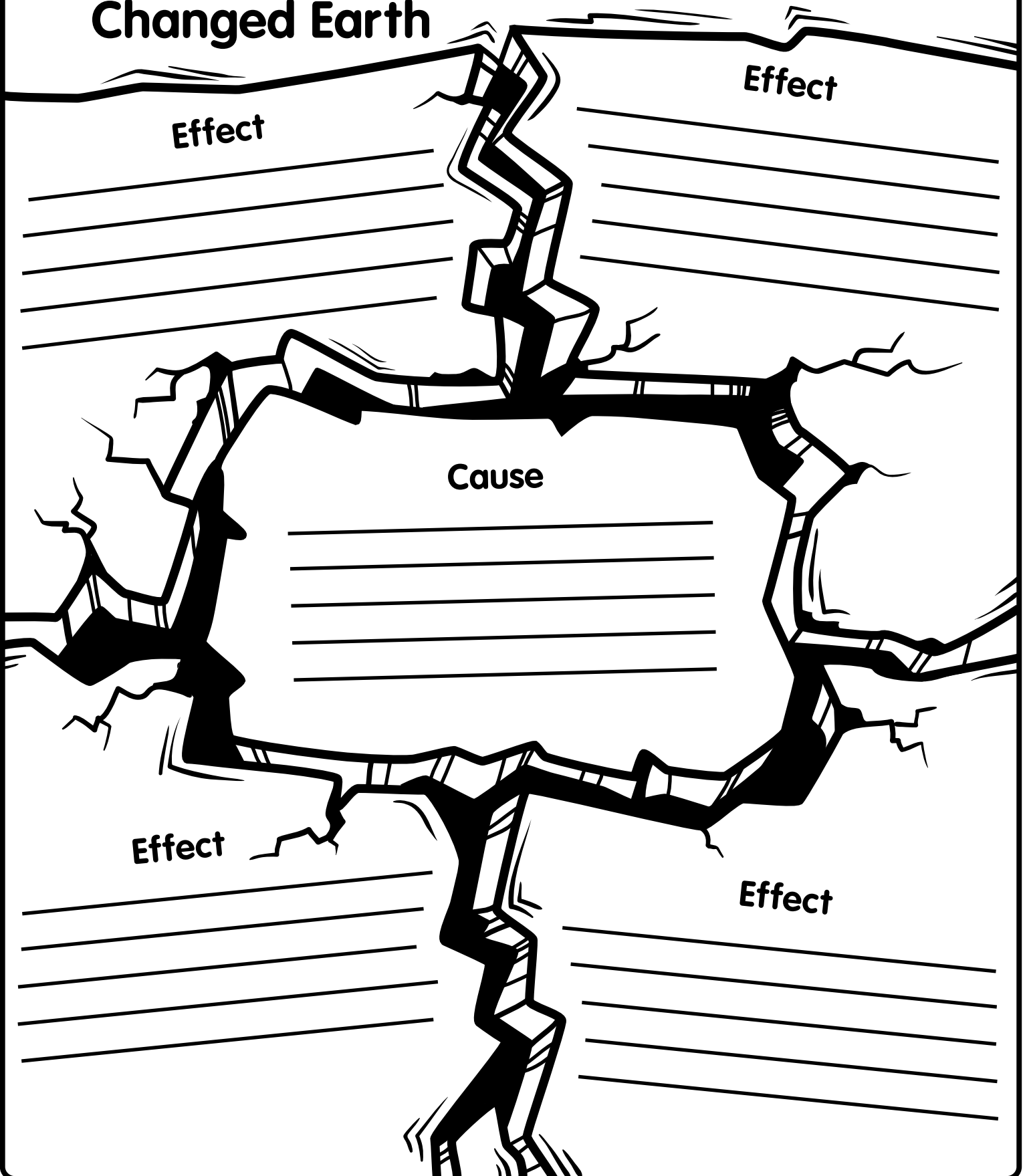
Chile **recovered** from the earthquake. The people all worked together to rebuild the homes and buildings that had been destroyed. Since then, Chile has had more earthquakes. But there has never been an earthquake that was as strong as the one that hit Chile on May 22, 1960.



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Cause & Effect

The Earthquake that Changed Earth



The Earthquake that Changed Earth

Cause & Effect

Effect

A tsunami hit the coasts of Chile, Hawaii, and Japan.

Effect

Buildings were destroyed.

Cause

There was a huge earthquake in the ocean near Chile.

Effect

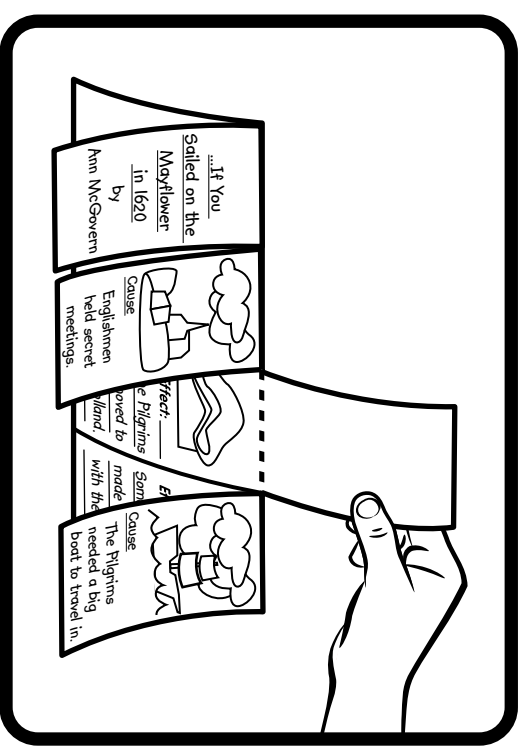
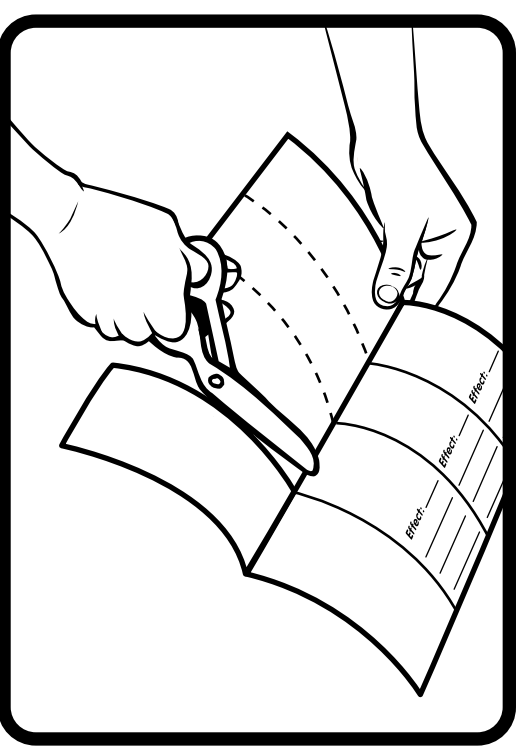
There were large landslides.

Effect

Villages near the ocean were flooded.

Cause & Effect Flip Book

- 1.** Fold the paper in half. Then open it and cut along the dotted lines. Be careful not to cut past the fold.
- 2.** Write your book title on the first flap.
- 3.** Under the flaps, draw and write three events that happen in the book.
- 4.** Draw and write the cause of each event on the flap.



Fold Here



Effect: _____

Effect: _____

Effect: _____

