



Cause and effect

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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**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.

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Read about how light causes us to see colors, and think about **cause** and **effect** as you read.

Terrence Learns How We See Color

Terrence was excited about his new watercolor set. He loved to draw and paint. He liked to draw and paint race cars, airplanes, and trucks. He liked to use all kinds of colors in his pictures. He was learning how to mix colors together to make new and interesting colors.

He showed one of his new pictures to his dad one day. His dad said, "These are such amazing colors! Do you know how our eyes see different colors?"

Terrence had never thought about that before, but he was interested. "No, he said. "We just see them, I guess."

"Well," said his dad. "It's a little more complicated than that."

"Tell me, then!" Terrence said. "Maybe it will help me learn how to mix cool new colors."

"All right," Terrence's dad said. "But first you need to know about light. A light beam is made up of smaller beams of different colors. Our eyes see these many-colored beams as colorless. But when the light beams hit an object, our eyes see that object as a certain color. This is because the object absorbs all of the color beams except one. The color that *isn't* absorbed is the color we see."

Terrence thought about all this for a bit. He thought he understood what his dad was saying. "What else can you tell me about color?" he asked.

"I think you're really going to like hearing about how the color wheel works," his dad said. "But right now, it's time for dinner."

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

1. Terrence loved to draw and paint.
 - A. Terrence got started on a new drawing.
 - B. Terrence was saving his money for a new watercolor set.
 - C. Terrence was excited about his new watercolor set.

2. Terrence liked to use all kinds of colors in his pictures.
 - A. Terrence was learning to mix colors together.
 - B. Terrence tried out each color in his new paint set.
 - C. Terrence decided he liked the red paint the best.

3. Terrence's dad asked him if he knew how our eyes see different colors.
 - A. Terrence said that he already knew how our eyes see different colors.
 - B. Terrence asked his dad to show him how to mix colors together.
 - C. Terrence asked his dad to explain how our eyes see different colors.

4. Terrence asked his dad to explain how our eyes see different colors.
 - A. Terrence's dad explained that different light beams are different colors.
 - B. Terrence's dad explained that light beams are made of smaller color beams.
 - C. Terrence's dad explained that colors can be mixed together to make new colors.

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5. Here is a **cause**: Terrence thought he understood his dad's explanation of how we see color.  
What is the **effect**?

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6. Here is a **cause**: Terrence asked his dad what else he could tell him about color.  
What is the **effect**?

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### Answer Key

1. C
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. Terrence asked his dad what else he could tell him about color.
6. Terrence's dad said he thought Terrence would like to hear about how the color wheel works.