

Name _____

Cause and Effect • Story Structure

- A **cause** tells why something happened.
- An **effect** is what happened.
- Words such as *because* and *so* are clues that can help you figure out a **cause** and its **effects**.

Directions Read the following passage.

Pedro’s family lives on a farm. His father grows corn for the family to enjoy. There is one important job that Pedro gets to do. He looks out for corn earworm moths.

These moths lay eggs in the corn and cotton crops. Their larvae eat the plants, destroying them. To keep the moths away, Pedro’s father has to hire pilots to spray

their fields with chemicals to kill the moths.

Because bats eat moths, they help guard the crop too. Mexican free-tailed bats live in caves near the fields. They can eat a thousand tons of moths in one night! That means fewer moths for Pedro to watch for, and more corn for his family to enjoy.

Directions Complete the cause and effect graphic organizer.

Cause

Effects

1.

Pedro’s family doesn’t want the moths to destroy their crops.

2. What must Pedro’s father do?

Spray fields with chemicals

3. What animal eats the moths?

Bats

4. What pattern in the story helped you figure out the answers?

Clue words *so* and *because*

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Home Activity Your child found a cause and two effects in a passage. To help your child understand cause and effect, point out causes to your child and ask him or her to name the effects. For example, you might mention a rainy day as a cause. The effects could be using an umbrella and not being able to play outdoors.