

Cause & Effect • Volcanoes • 1

To identify cause and effect as you read, remember:

- A **cause** is the reason something happened.
- An **effect** is what happened as a result.
- **Signal words** help identify the cause and effect.
Examples are *therefore, as a result, because, so, and for this reason.*

Read “Mount St. Helens Blows Up!” Find a cause-and-effect relationship. Then mark the text.

Mount St. Helens Blows Up!

Mount St. Helens is a volcano in the state of Washington. For many years, it was inactive. Then, in 1980, it started to show signs of life. On May 18, the volcano blew up. A violent eruption caused the mountain to explode and shoot out lava, rocks, ash, and gas. As a result of the eruption, 57 people died and countless animals and plants were destroyed. It was the deadliest eruption ever in the United States.

Cause & Effect Text Marks

-  Circle the **cause**.
-  Box the **signal word**.
-  Underline the **effect**.

Mark the Text

Find a cause-and-effect relationship.

-  Circle the cause.
-  Box the signal word.
-  Underline the effect.

Read “When Volcanoes Explode.” Find the cause-and-effect relationships. Then mark the text.

When Volcanoes Explode

- 1** When a volcano explodes, it destroys everything around it. Lava—red hot, melted rock—sprurts out of the top. Because the lava is so hot and thick, it burns everything in its path. That includes trees, houses, and even cars. The lava turns into hard rock when it cools.
- 2** An erupting volcano also shoots out huge clouds of ash mixed with poisonous gases. Sometimes, the clouds of ash are so thick and high that they block out the sun. As a result, the climate of the area can grow cooler. Thick ash clouds are also a danger to jet planes. The ash can make a plane crash by clogging up its engines.

If you are ever near an erupting volcano, don’t waste time. Run for your life!



Mark the Text

- 1** Find a cause-and-effect relationship.
 - Circle the cause.
 - Box the signal word.
 - Underline the effect.
- 2** Find a cause-and-effect relationship.
 - Circle the cause.
 - Box the signal words.
 - Underline two effects.

Read “Ash From Iceland.” Find the cause-and-effect relationships. Mark the text.

Ash From Iceland

1 In the spring of 2010, a volcano in Iceland made world headlines. The volcano’s name is Eyjafjallajökull. It sits under a large ice cap near the Arctic Circle. The volcano began to erupt in late March. Its fiery heat melted the ice above it, causing rivers to flood and forcing residents to evacuate.

2 Things really started to heat up on April 14. The volcano shot up clouds containing millions of fine pieces of glassy ash. The ash drifted high into the air over Europe. As a result, governments would not allow planes to take off or land. Millions of travelers were stranded in airports. Almost a week passed before the airports opened again. A small volcano showed the world the power of nature.



Mark the Text

1 Find a cause-and-effect relationship.

Circle the cause.

Box the signal word.

 Underline two effects.

2 Find a cause-and-effect relationship.

Circle the cause.

Box the signal word.

 Underline two effects.