

THINKING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Video: Elements of Destruction

*Cause-Effect Relationships Nonfiction Text Structure
(multiple causes – single effect)*

While Jen was at the Nature Center last summer, she met Naturalist Tom Byrd. He is a wildlife rehabilitator who is working with injured birds. He cares for them until they are well and can be released back into the wild.

While Tom was showing her the bald eagle, he shared some fascinating information about these birds. He told her that bald eagles once were nearly extinct. After Jen returned home, she thought more about what Naturalist Byrd had shared. Jen wondered, “Why had bald eagles faced extinction?”

Jen went to the library and found an interesting article in a book about bald eagles. But she also noticed that it's a great example of Cause-Effect Nonfiction Text Structure!

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read *Bald Eagles Faced Extinction* and create your own *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer.

Then compare your thinking with [Jen's Think Aloud and Graphic Organizer](#).



Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about bald eagles.
Think about what you've learned about cause-effect relationships.
Share your thoughts with your family and friends.

While You Read:

Ask your parent, brother, sister, or friend to read this passage with you. Look for signal words and see if together you can determine the causes and their effect. You may want to highlight signal words in blue. Highlight the causes in orange and the effect in green. (You may use any colors available to you – just remember your color scheme!)

After You Read:

- Think about this question, "Why did the bald eagles face extinction?"
- Discuss your ideas with your family or friends. Together, create a collaborative Think Aloud about how you used Cause-Effect Relationships Nonfiction Text Structure to determine why bald eagles faced extinction. Share your *thinking* with each other.

Bald Eagles Faced Extinction

The bald eagle, the national bird symbol of the United States, spent years in danger of extinction. There were many reasons for their decline. Before being protected under the Endangered Species Act, bald eagles were hunted for sport. Landowners also hunted bald eagles in order to protect fishing areas. With development, the bald eagles' natural habitats were threatened. In addition, the widespread use of the pesticide DDT contaminated fish and aquatic life, which made up most of the diet of the bald eagle. DDT caused the eggshells of the bald eagle to thin and weaken. For this reason, the eggs often broke or failed to hatch. As a result, the number of bald eagles bottomed out by 1963, with only 417 breeding pairs in the lower 48 states.





Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the multiple causes and the single effect for the bald eagles' near extinction, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking and to help you remember the author's main points.





Compare your Think Aloud with Jen's Think Aloud:

Jen's Think Aloud: "I'm able to predict that the passage is going to tell me about the near extinction of the bald eagle based on the title and the information provided in the first sentence. I'm thinking that the word "many" along with the signal words "reasons for" tell me I'm going to learn about *multiple causes* of the bald eagle's near extinction. I continue reading and find five reasons for this near disaster. Eagles were hunted for sport and to protect landowner's fishing areas. Their habitats were threatened by developments. DDT contaminated their diet. And there's one more... DDT caused the eggshells to weaken so much that they broke or failed to hatch. Then I see another important set of signal words. "As a result," signals I will be finding out the *effect* of all these harmful events. I find out that only 417 breeding pairs of bald eagles were left in the United States in 1963. I know the lower 48 states means "not counting Alaska and Hawaii."

Bald Eagles Faced Extinction

The bald eagle, the national bird symbol of the United States, spent years in danger of extinction. There were **many reasons** for their decline. Before being protected under the Endangered Species Act, bald eagles were **hunted for sport**. Landowners also **hunted bald eagles in order to protect fishing areas**. **With development, the bald eagles' natural habitats were threatened**. In addition, the widespread use of the pesticide **DDT contaminated fish and aquatic life, which made up most of the diet** of the bald eagle. DDT caused the **eggshells** of the bald eagle **to thin and weaken**. For this reason, the **eggs often broke or failed to hatch**. **As a result**, the **number of bald eagles bottomed out by 1963, with only 417 breeding pairs in the lower 48 states**.





Compare your Graphic Organizer with Jen's Graphic Organizer:

Jen's Graphic Organizer: "Because there are multiple causes that result in a single effect, I use a multiple causes-single effect organizer."

Questions to Think and Talk About:

- How do signal words help Jen make sense of the text?
- How does the *Multiple Causes-Single Effect Graphic Organizer* help Jen determine important ideas?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

