

Cause-Effect Chain (Flash Flood Alert) Practice Activities

Saving Lives

Forecasters study the conditions that lead up to a past flash flood, or it's "fingerprint." These "fingerprints," such as rapid snow melt, torrential spring rain, or ice dam breakage, provide valuable information. Because forecasters use this past information, coupled with the latest weather radars and technology, they are then able to make more accurate forecasts. When weather conditions may result in flash floods, watches and warnings alert the public. Due to these critical warnings, lives are saved, even if there are only minutes to evacuate and move to higher ground.

First, think about what you already know about flash floods and how emergency rescue systems save lives. After you finish thinking, please read the passage, "Saving Lives."

Next, based on the passage, write a list of the multiple causes that occur before a flash flood in order to save lives.

Then highlight any signal words that the author used to help structure his/her writing.

Finally, create a graphic organizer that helps you visualize the multiple causes that occur before a flash flood in order to save lives. Be aware that some causes may be written about after the main event. This will help you remember the author's main points during and after you read.

Compare your answers with **Reed's Think Aloud**.

Cause and Effect Relationship is a technique an author uses to describe how an event happens, and the results of that event.

Cause

- The things that occur to create an event

Effect

- The results of an event

Signal Words are certain words authors use to highlight the cause and effect.

Signal words to show a cause:

- Because, if, since

Signal words to show an effect:

- As a result of, consequently, then, thus, so

Graphic Organizer - A diagram that helps you visualize something being described verbally or written.

- In this video, the graphic organizer helps show the chain of causes that happen in order for lives to be saved from a flash flood.

The Bats of Bracken Cave

Bracken Cave, located in Texas, is the gathering place for the single largest community of mammals in the world. Every spring, Mexican Free-tailed bats migrate up to 1,000 miles to Bracken Cave, where they give birth, raise their pups, and hang in compact 20 million bats dart from the cave in a river of flapping wings. The massive bat exodus can last up to three hours. Once outside, the bats are voracious and speedy eaters, snapping up flying insects. As a result of their efficient hunting, the Mexican Free-tailed bats are a farmer's best friends, eating insects that could have otherwise damaged corn and cotton crops. The migration of Mexican Free-tailed bats to Bracken Cave is an exciting phenomenon that has endured for over 10,000 years. Therefore, many people are working hard to protect what is thought to be the most social of all bats, and the unique community they have established.

First, think about what you already know about bats and animal protection groups. After you finish thinking, please read the passage, The Bats of Bracken Cave.

Next, based on the passage, write a list of the multiple causes for why people are working hard to protect the bats.

Then highlight any signal words that the author used to help structure his/her writing.

Finally, create a Cause-Effect Chain Graphic Organizer that helps you visualize the multiple causes for why people are working to protect bats. This will help you remember the author's main points during and after you read.

Compare your answers with **Amir's Think Aloud**.