

## Cause and Effect

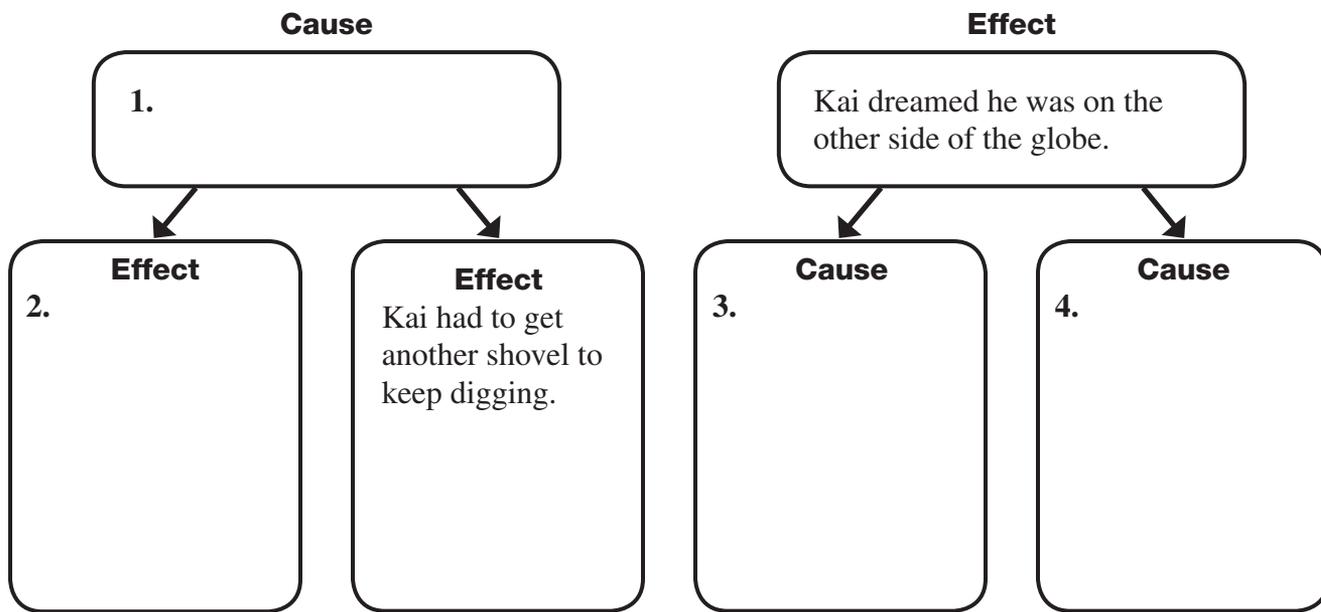
- A **cause** (what makes something happen) may have several effects. An **effect** (what happens as a result of a cause) may have several causes.
- Sometimes clue words such as *since*, *as a result*, *caused*, *thus*, *therefore*, and *consequently* are used to show cause-and-effect relationships.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then complete the diagram below.

**K**ai was determined to dig straight through to the other side of the Earth. He had the tools: his mom’s garden shovel and his dad’s metal rake. When he started digging, things went smoothly. As he dug deeper, the digging got harder. As Kai pounded away at the clay below the topsoil, the tip of his shovel began to flatten. He knew he’d need a sharp tip on his shovel to dig deep into the mantle of

the Earth, so he went back to the garage and got another shovel. The harder he dug, the sweatier he became. Pretty soon, Kai was exhausted. He sat down in the shade of a nearby tree and quickly fell asleep.

He dreamed he had dug through Earth’s mantle, through the boiling hot core, and was making his way out on the other side of the globe. Dream-digging was so much easier.



5. Summarize the passage in one or two sentences.

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**Home Activity** Your child read a short passage and identified causes and effects. Read a favorite story together and discuss the causes and effects you find.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Writing • Writing for Tests

To the Editor:

The Oregon Street Park is in desperate need of repair and renovation. Between the crumbling pavement on the basketball and tennis courts and the rusty, broken slides and swing sets, the park is unsafe for the many children who visit it daily. The park must be fixed before someone gets hurt.

First, the park must be cleaned up. Broken bottles and pieces of litter are scattered all over the ground. My fifth-grade class at Windber Elementary has arranged a field trip to clean up the park. We will gather at Oregon Park at 9 AM on October 11th. We ask our neighbors in the community to join us and help clean up our park.

Next, we ask the members of the city government to visit the park and see the problems for themselves. It is up to the city government to remove the old, broken parts of the park and replace them with safe, new materials. Specifically, we believe that the basketball and tennis courts, along with the slides and swing sets, should be replaced.

If we work together as a community, we could have the safest, cleanest, and most enjoyable park around. A new park will provide the community with a place to meet, to exercise, and to play. We students are ready to help make this change. We hope we can count on the support of the adults in our community.

Thank you,  
Cooper Jackson  
Windber Elementary School

1. Reread the letter. What purpose does the writer state in paragraph one?

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2. What are two facts the writer includes to support the purpose for writing?

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3. From whom does the writer ask support for this purpose?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary

**Directions** Choose the word from the box that best completes each sentence. Write the word on the line shown to the left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. No one is really sure how the dinosaurs vanished, or became \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Some think a giant asteroid collided with the Earth and \_\_\_\_\_ it into darkness.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Some dinosaurs looked as though they were covered in heavy, protective \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Although they looked strong, they were not protected from starvation, a painful and \_\_\_\_\_ way to die.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Today, a scientist who finds any remains from the age of the dinosaurs covers, or \_\_\_\_\_, them in special boxes that will preserve them into the future.

### Check the Words You Know

- \_\_\_armor
- \_\_\_encases
- \_\_\_extinct
- \_\_\_hideous
- \_\_\_plunged
- \_\_\_serpent

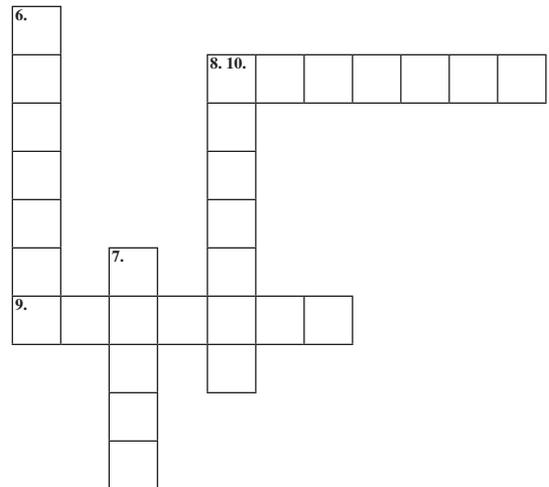
**Directions** Fill in the crossword puzzle using the clues below.

### DOWN

- 6. very ugly, horrible
- 7. protective covering
- 8. covers completely

### ACROSS

- 9. snake
- 10. no longer existing



## Write a Newspaper Article

On a separate sheet of paper, pretend you are a news reporter and dinosaur fossils have been discovered somewhere in your town. Use as many vocabulary words as you can to write an article about the fossils.



**Home Activity** Your child identified and used vocabulary words from the story *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. With your child, make up a story about what is at the center of the Earth using the vocabulary words.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

**Comparative adjectives** are used to compare two people, places, things, or groups. Add *-er* to most short adjectives to make their comparative forms. Use *more* with longer adjectives.

**Superlative adjectives** are used to compare three or more people, places, things, or groups. Add *-est* to most short adjectives to make their superlative forms. Use *most* with longer adjectives.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
great	greater	greatest
enormous	more enormous	most enormous

- Adjectives such as *good* and *bad* have irregular comparative and superlative forms: *good, better, best; bad, worse, worst*.
- Never use *more* or *most* with *-er* and *-est*.  
**No:** more sillier, most ancientest  
**Yes:** sillier, most ancient

**Directions** Complete the table. Add *-er*, *-est*, *more*, or *most* as needed.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
primitive	1. _____	2. _____
great	3. _____	4. _____
calm	5. _____	6. _____
wet	7. _____	8. _____
frightening	9. _____	10. _____
exciting	11. _____	12. _____

**Directions** Write the correct forms of the adjectives in ( ) to complete the sentences.

- Is Ray Bradbury \_\_\_\_\_ (famous) than Jules Verne was?
- Readers might think Jules Verne was the \_\_\_\_\_ (lucky) science fiction writer of all.
- Did Verne write \_\_\_\_\_ (good) fiction than Lewis Carroll?
- His \_\_\_\_\_ (important) legacy of all was his influence on twentieth-century scientists, inventors, and explorers.



**Home Activity** Your child learned about comparative and superlative adjectives. Ask your child to use these forms to expand these sentences: *Science fiction is fascinating. Reading is fun. \_\_\_\_\_ is a good book.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Latin Roots****Spelling Words**

describe	interruption	inspection	scribble	respectful
bankrupt	project	injection	manuscript	suspect
subscription	spectacular	eruption	eject	abruptly
prescribe	reject	aspect	rupture	inscribe

**Words in Context** Write the list words that complete each sentence.

She paged through the mystery (1)\_\_\_\_\_ and became convinced that the (2)\_\_\_\_\_ was guilty.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

She needed to give it a close (3)\_\_\_\_\_ before she announced that she would (4)\_\_\_\_\_ it.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

It was a long-term (5)\_\_\_\_\_ and would look bad if it ended (6)\_\_\_\_\_.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

She had to (7)\_\_\_\_\_ in detail any pause or (8)\_\_\_\_\_ that occurred.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

Even when the company lost money and went (9)\_\_\_\_\_, she remained (10)\_\_\_\_\_.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Definitions** Write the list word that has the same meaning.

11. purchase of a series of things 11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. a burst, split, or break 12. \_\_\_\_\_

13. write carelessly 13. \_\_\_\_\_

14. an element to be considered 14. \_\_\_\_\_

15. a way of administering a substance, such as a drug 15. \_\_\_\_\_

16. an order, set down as a rule or guide 16. \_\_\_\_\_

17. carve into a material 17. \_\_\_\_\_

18. put out from a place 18. \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Scoring Rubric: Letter to the Editor**

	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Focus/Ideas</b>	Focused argument with clearly stated opinion or claim; inclusion of supporting reasons and evidence	Somewhat focused argument with clearly stated opinion or claim; some supporting reasons and evidence included	Unfocused argument; opinion or claim apparent but not stated; few supporting reasons or evidence included	Argument with no clear opinion or claim; no supporting reasons or evidence included
<b>Organization</b>	Logical organization supported by facts and details; proper letter conventions	Mostly logical organization with some facts; some letter conventions missing or incorrect	Weak organization; letter conventions missing or incorrect	No identifiable organizational scheme; letter conventions missing or incorrect
<b>Voice</b>	Engaging, effective, and confident; shows writer's opinion about stated purpose	Fairly engaging voice; shows writer's opinion about stated purpose	Weak voice showing few feelings about stated purpose	Flat writing with no identifiable voice
<b>Word Choice</b>	Vivid, precise word choice including words that appeal to the reader's thoughts and emotions	Accurate word choice including some words that appeal to the reader's thoughts and emotions	Limited or repetitive word choice with few or no words that appeal to the reader's thoughts and emotions	Incorrect or very limited word choice with no words that appeal to the reader's thoughts and emotions
<b>Sentences</b>	Varied sentences in logical progression	Not as much variety; order mostly logical	Too many similar sentences; order lacking	Many fragments and run-ons
<b>Conventions</b>	Excellent control and accuracy; comparative and superlative adjectives used correctly	Good control, few errors; comparative and superlative adjectives generally used correctly	Weak control, many errors; comparative and superlative adjectives used incorrectly	Serious errors that obscure meaning

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary • Unfamiliar Words

- As you read, you may come to a word you do not know. Look for **context clues**, or words and sentences around the words, to help you figure out the meaning of the unknown word.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

The *ichthyosaurus* isn't one specific dinosaur; it refers to a category of dinosaurs. Throughout history, *Ichthyosaurs* have been described as hideous, or disgusting to look at, creatures. That description has more to do with the imagination of artists than with actual fact.

*Ichthyosaurs* were the ancestors that came before modern dolphins and serpents (or snakes). Though extinct for millions of years, we can see similarities between *ichthyosaurs* and snakes and dolphins today: they can live in water, they can be up to 10 feet long, and they have flexible spines. They all have sharp teeth.

1. What do you think *hideous* means?

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2. What context clue helped you understand its meaning?

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3. How do context clues help you understand the meaning of *serpent*?

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4. How do context clues help you understand the meaning *ancestor*?

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5. What context clues help you to figure out what *extinct* means?

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**Home Activity** Your child read a short passage and used context clues to understand unfamiliar words. With your child, read a piece of mail you received and help him or her use context clues to understand unfamiliar words.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Diagram/Scale Drawing

- A **diagram** is a drawing that shows how something is put together, how its parts relate to one another, or how it works. The parts are usually labeled in a diagram, and they often have text that explains how the different parts work.
- A **scale drawing** is a diagram that uses a mathematical scale, such as 1 inch on the drawing equals 1 foot in “real life.”

**Directions** Use this Web page to answer the questions below.

# GEOLOGY SITE

Note: The more specific your search terms, the more successful your search will be.

**Student Question of the Day**

How hot is magma?  
[Click here to find out.](#)

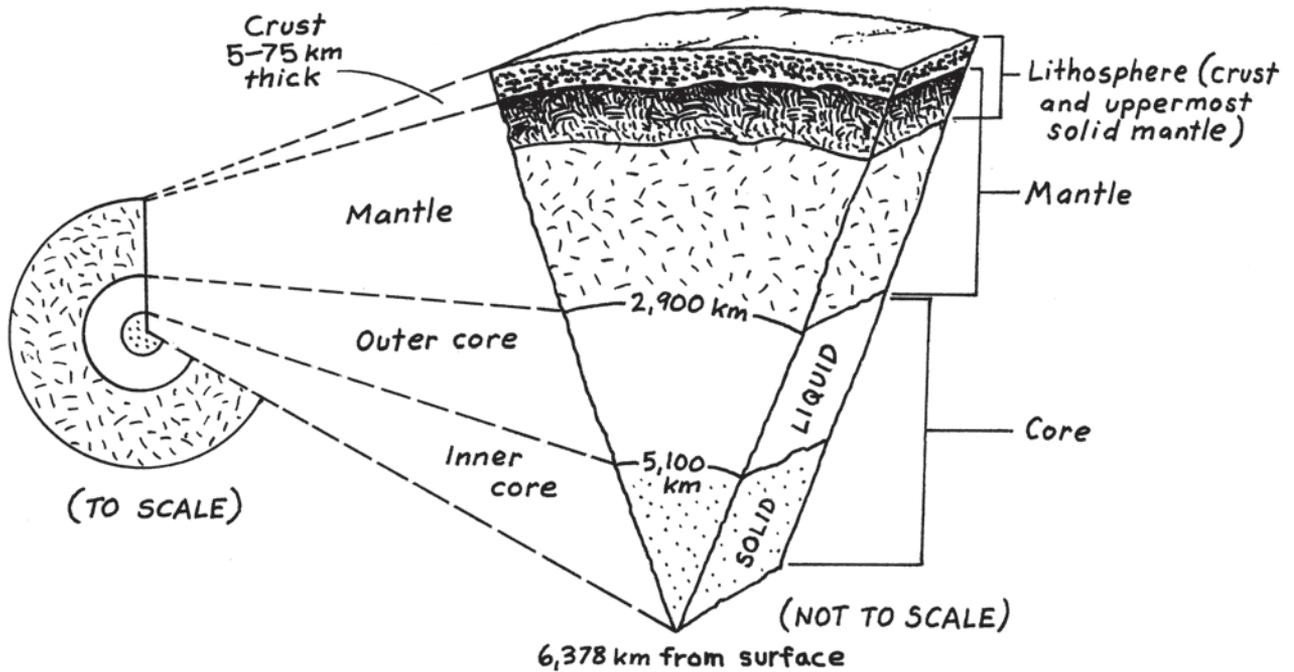
**Today in History**

1891: British spelunker Ed Jensen discovers new mineral in Southeast Asia.

1. Where would you begin your search on this site for a diagram of the Earth’s layers?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What keywords would you use to search for a diagram of the Earth’s layers?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. If you want to get an idea of the size of the diagram area, what specific keyword would you need to use?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you wanted help understanding the diagram, what might be a helpful keyword to include in a search?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why would a geology site be a good place to start looking for your diagram?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions** Use the diagram below to answer the questions.



6. Which of the two images of the Earth's layers is to scale?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the Earth's core made of?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Looking at the "To Scale" image, what makes up the largest part of the Earth: the core, the mantle, or the crust?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. The Earth is 8,000 miles in diameter. If you made a scale drawing with a scale of 1 inch to 2,000 miles, how big would the drawing be?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How might you interpret what the drawing shows about the Earth's core?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Home Activity** Your child learned how to locate and interpret a scale drawing. With your child, create a scale drawing of your home using a size ratio of 1 inch equaling 2 feet (this should fit on a standard piece of paper).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Latin Roots

**Proofread an Article** Circle six spelling errors in the article. Write the words correctly. Find a punctuation error and write the sentence correctly.

### Library News

Police spent all morning in the ancient manuscript department of our library. They left about an hour later, shaking their heads, barely able to discribe what happened. During the morning inspection, I found the suspect about to scribbel his name apou the cover of a rare manuscript. I gasped. Surprised by the interuption the suspect turned abruptly. I grabbed him by the collar and proceeded to eject him from the premises. During police questioning, the suspect revealed his plans for a spectacilar project. He intended to enscribe his name on all 600 volumes of ancient and rare manuscripts. Luckily, I was able to stop that from happening.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_

### Spelling Words

- describe
- interruption
- inspection
- scribble
- respectful
- bankrupt
- project
- injection
- manuscript
- suspect
  
- subscription
- spectacular
- eruption
- eject
- abruptly
- prescribe
- reject
- aspect
- rupture
- inscribe

### Frequently Misspelled Words

- into
- upon

**Proofread Words** Circle the correct spelling of each word.

- 8. bankrupt      bankrupt      bankrup
- 9. injection      enjection      injekshun
- 10. aruption      erubtion      eruption
- 11. respectfull      respectful      rispectful
- 12. prescribe      preescribe      preskribe
- 13. subsription      subscription      subscreption
- 14. rejekt      rejict      reject
- 15. rupshure      repture      rupture
- 16. aspect      espekt      aspict



**Home Activity** Your child identified misspelled list words. Ask your child to say five list words, tell the Latin root for each, and then spell and define each word.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

**Directions** Read the passage. Then read each question. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

# Uncovering Dinosaurs

(1) Most dinosaurs were (big) than today's reptiles. (2) Although he was not the (large), the *Tyrannosaurus rex* was the (scary) dinosaur of them all. (3) Scientists today have a \_\_\_\_\_ idea of what dinosaurs looked like than they used to. (4) Sue is the largest *T. rex* ever found. (5) She stands in the Field Museum, one of the country's \_\_\_\_\_ museums. (6) Their collection of dinosaurs is exquisite. (7) Most dinosaurs at the Field Museum are much (small) than *T. rex* and much (frightening)!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Which form of the word in parentheses best completes sentence 1?</p> <p><b>A</b> big<br/><b>B</b> bigger<br/><b>C</b> biggest<br/><b>D</b> more big</p> <p><b>2</b> Which forms of the words in parentheses best completes sentence 2?</p> <p><b>A</b> larger/scarier<br/><b>B</b> larger/scariest<br/><b>C</b> largest/scary<br/><b>D</b> largest/scariest</p> <p><b>3</b> Which word best completes sentence 3?</p> <p><b>A</b> good<br/><b>B</b> better<br/><b>C</b> best<br/><b>D</b> great</p> | <p><b>4</b> Which superlative adjective would not be used to complete sentence 5?</p> <p><b>A</b> finest<br/><b>B</b> dirtiest<br/><b>C</b> best known<br/><b>D</b> most respected</p> <p><b>5</b> Sentence 7 could best be replaced with which sentence?</p> <p><b>A</b> Most dinosaurs at the Field Museum are much smaller than <i>T. rex</i> and much less frightening!</p> <p><b>B</b> Most dinosaurs at the Field Museum are much more smaller than <i>T. rex</i> and much less frightening!</p> <p><b>C</b> Most dinosaurs at the Field Museum are much small than <i>T. rex</i> and much less frightening!</p> <p><b>D</b> Most dinosaurs at the Field Museum are much more small than <i>T. rex</i> and much less frightening!</p> |
|---|---|



**Home Activity** Your child prepared for taking tests on comparative and superlative adjectives. Ask your child to use the correct adjective forms on this page in sentences to compare sets of two objects, then sets of three objects.