



Cause and effect

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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**Cause and effect** are about how one thing  
can cause something else to happen.

The **cause** is *why* something happened.

The **effect** is *what* happened.

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Read about how light causes us to see colors, and think about **cause** and **effect** as you read.

Light: How We See Colors

Light is a form of energy that we can see. Some light comes from the sun. Other light is man-made. Man-made light uses science to turn another kind of energy, such as electricity, into energy in the form of light.

Light moves in a wavy beam from a source to whatever object it meets. The beam is made up of smaller wavy beams—one for each color. When a light beam is moving through the air, with all the colors together, it appears to be clear.

When a light beam hits an object, such as tree leaves, or an apple, the color of the object affects the smaller color beams inside the entire light beam. The green leaves absorb all of the color beams except green. Only the green beam is reflected back, so our eyes see the leaves as green. The apple absorbs all of the color beams except red. Only the red beam is reflected back, so our eyes see the apple as red. This is called “reflection”.

Another kind of reflection happens when a light beam hits a smooth, shiny object. When this happens, the entire beam of light bounces back. None of the small color beams are absorbed. The light beam bounces back like a ball thrown against a wall. If we look at the shiny object that is reflecting light, we can see images of the things the reflected light hits as it bounces off the shiny surface, such as our own face!



What is the **effect** of each **cause**?

1. A light beam travels away from a source, such as the sun.
 - A. The light beam spreads out in separate beams.
 - B. The light beam makes a sound.
 - C. The light beam hits an object.

2. A light beam hits a red apple.
 - A. All of the color beams except red are absorbed by the apple.
 - B. None of the color beams are absorbed by the apple.
 - C. Only the red beams are absorbed by the apple.

3. A red apple reflects back some of the color in a light beam.
 - A. We see the apple as red.
 - B. We are able to see through the apple.
 - C. The apple begins to glow.

4. A light beam hits a smooth, shiny object.
 - A. Only one color beam bounces back off the object.
 - B. Only some color beams bounce back off the object.
 - C. All of the color beams bounce back off the object.

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5. Here is a **cause**: A beam of light hits a green leaf.  
What is the **effect**?

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6. Here is a **cause**: You look straight at a bright, shiny object when a beam of light bounces off of it.  
What is the **effect**?

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## Answer Key

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. C
5. All of the color beams except green are absorbed by the leaf. (And we see the leaf as green.)
6. You see an image of yourself in the shiny object.