

Cause Brainstorm Answer Key

Sample Responses (answers may vary, but must be logical)

1. Effect: The classroom lights suddenly went out.
 - Possible Causes: A power outage in the school; a blown fuse.
2. Effect: The library books were scattered all over the floor.
 - Possible Causes: A student accidentally knocked them down; an earthquake shook the shelves.
3. Effect: Sam was soaking wet when he arrived at school.
 - Possible Causes: He walked in the rain without an umbrella; someone splashed him with water.
4. Effect: The soccer game was canceled.
 - Possible Causes: Heavy rain made the field unsafe; not enough players showed up.
5. Effect: The new bakery had a line out the door.
 - Possible Causes: The bakery was giving away free samples; people heard great reviews about the food.

Sample Paragraph

- Effect: The town park was closed for a month.
- Possible Causes: The park might have been flooded by heavy rain. Construction crews could have been repairing broken equipment. Another possible cause is that the city wanted to plant new trees and grass.

Teacher Notes / Guide

- **Focus Skill:** Helps students learn that effects can come from *multiple causes*, teaching flexible, critical thinking.
- **Support:** For younger students, provide word banks of possible causes.
- **Extension:** Ask advanced students to write *chains of causes* that build up to the same effect.
- **Discussion Prompt:** "Why do you think it's important to consider more than one possible cause for the same effect?"