

Name _____

Heat Chain Answer Key

1. The pond warmed faster because its shallow water absorbed sunlight quickly.
2. The algae grew more rapidly.
3. The thick algae layer blocked sunlight from reaching the plants.
4. Pond animals had less oxygen available in the water.
5. Answers will vary. Possible answer: With lower oxygen, some animals may leave the pond or die.

Teacher's Guide

- Use this worksheet to strengthen students understanding of **cause and effect** in scientific processes.
- For support, underline verbs and time sequence words in the passage before identifying relationships.
- For engagement, have students act out the chain of events using simple gestures to represent warming, growth, or blocking.
- For extension, let students create a new cause and effect chain from a different ecosystem such as a forest or desert.
- For advanced learners, ask them to predict long term impacts on the pond ecosystem and justify their thinking.
- For struggling readers, provide sentence stems such as The cause was... and The effect was... to guide responses.