

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer Key

Cause and Effect: The Titanic

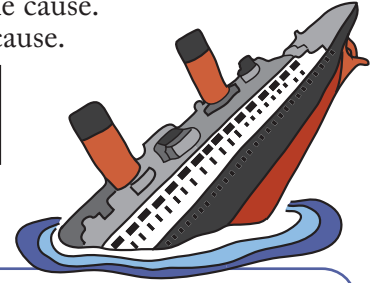
A **cause** is something that makes something else happen. It is the reason for the effect.



An **effect** is the result of the cause. It happens because of the cause.

It answers the question, "Why did this happen?"

It answers the question, "What happened?"



Directions: Read the passage below.

Just four days into its maiden voyage, the amazing Titanic met its tragic end. Several ice warnings were issued to the ship through the night. The lookout spotted an iceberg looming ahead in the dark seas, but it was too late to turn the ship. The large vessel struck an iceberg on the night of April 14, 1912.

The iceberg created a large hole in the side of the ship. Water immediately began entering the compartments. The designers of the ship called it "unsinkable," but they were mistaken. They had not planned for the 300 ft. hole in the side of the ship that caused water to rush into the compartments. Less than three hours later, the Titanic was at the bottom of the ocean.

This was the largest passenger ship of its time, and it is still one of the most famous ships in history. The massive ship was beautiful and talked about all over the world. However, the ship was not equipped with enough lifeboats in case disaster struck. And disaster did strike. The ship designers had not prepared correctly, so the crew was not prepared either.

It took an hour after the Titanic struck the iceberg before any lifeboats were actually launched. Many boats were not filled to capacity before they were released into the ocean. For example, one lifeboat left with only 28 people on board when it could have held 64 people. This was a senseless mistake that cost even more people their lives.

From the time the ship hit the iceberg, the passengers had less than three hours to figure out how to survive. Many passengers in the lower decks were unable to make it to the top decks. There was panic as the freezing water of the Atlantic Ocean entered the ship and began pulling it to the bottom of the ocean.

If the Titanic had been more prepared with lifeboats and procedures for disaster, more lives would have been saved. About 60% of the passengers and crew on board the Titanic died on that tragic day out at sea.

Directions: Fill in the chart with details from the text that complete the cause and effect relationships.

Cause	Effect
The ship was unable to turn quickly enough.	The Titanic struck an iceberg.
The Titanic struck an iceberg.	Water rushed into the ship.
The designers said the ship was "unsinkable."	The ship did not have enough lifeboats.
There was panic onboard the ship.	It took an hour before any lifeboats were launched.
Lifeboats left without being completely full.	This mistake cost even more people their lives.
Many passengers on the lower decks were unable to make it to the upper decks.	They did not survive.