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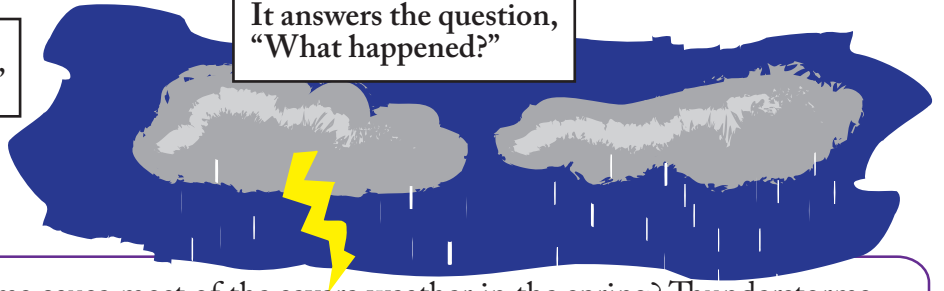
Cause and Effect: Thunderstorms

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.

Did you know that thunderstorms cause most of the severe weather in the spring? Thunderstorms bring rain, lightning, and thunder. In extreme cases, they can bring tornadoes and flooding, too. Most severe thunderstorms occur in the spring and summer months.

When warm, moist air collides with cool, dry air, a thunderstorm forms. A normal thunderstorm is a rain shower with thunder. Since thunder comes from lightning, all thunderstorms have lightning. A thunderstorm is classified as severe when there are events that are more significant than just thunder and lightning. A severe thunderstorm is when there are winds gusting over 57.5 miles per hour, hail that is an inch or larger, or tornadoes.

There are many effects of thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms do not bring much rain, but others can cause flash flooding. Flash flooding is extremely dangerous as there is little to no warning. Flash flooding causes many deaths each year. Lightning causes fires during thunderstorms. These fires cause destruction such as damage to houses and land. The fires can even cause the death of people and animals. The strong, gusting winds cause damage to buildings and houses, and they can knock down power lines. That results in communities with power outages, which makes daily tasks more difficult to complete. Hail can break windows in homes and cars, and injure any person or animal that is outside.

Thunderstorms are a type of storm that most people experience in their lifetime. The effects of a normal thunderstorm are not usually serious, but some people experience more than a simple thunderstorm. An extreme thunderstorm brings extreme effects.

Directions: Complete the chart with details from the text that show cause and effect relationships.

Cause (Why?) ⟶	Effect (What happened?)