



# Critical Thinking Skills

## Activity 16

**SOCIAL STUDIES OBJECTIVE:** Analyze information by identifying cause-and-effect relationships.

## Determining Cause and Effect

### LEARNING THE SKILL

A **cause** makes something happen. An **effect** is what happens as a result of the cause. Cause-and-effect relationships may appear in a chain of events, with one effect becoming the cause of the next effect. This process is similar to what happens when one domino falls, causing a series of dominoes to fall.

**Cause:** The Radical Republicans were dissatisfied with the way President Johnson was handling Reconstruction.

**Effect:** Therefore, after the election of 1866, the Radical Republicans took charge of Reconstruction.

The following transition words are often used to signal cause-and-effect relationships.

as a result	therefore	since	brought about because
if . . . then	so that	when	nevertheless

To find causes and effects, ask the questions "Why?" and "What is the result?"

### APPLYING THE SKILL

**DIRECTIONS:** Each pair of statements contains a cause and an effect. Mark each cause with a C and each effect with an E.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Some Southerners did not want freed blacks to have full civil rights.

\_\_\_\_\_ Black codes were passed in Southern states.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The House of Representatives impeached President Johnson.

\_\_\_\_\_ Radical Republicans, who controlled both houses of Congress, wanted stricter standards for readmitting the Southern states into the Union.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Governor Throckmorton was removed from office.

\_\_\_\_\_ The federal officials in Texas did not believe Governor Throckmorton was putting the laws of Reconstruction into effect.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Texas government increased spending for public education and law enforcement.

\_\_\_\_\_ Taxes increase dramatically during Edmund Davis's governorship.

(continued)



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5. \_\_\_\_\_ Governor Davis left the governor's office.  
\_\_\_\_\_ President Grant chose not to intervene in the election of 1873.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ After the Civil War, many African Americans were jobless.  
\_\_\_\_\_ African Americans were not allowed to earn wages from their former slaveholders and were denied other employment opportunities.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ President Johnson lost most of his political influence.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The House of Representatives tried to impeach President Johnson by bringing charges of misconduct in office.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Many enslaved Texans learned of the Emancipation Proclamation on June 19, 1865.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Today African Americans in Texas celebrate their heritage during the Juneteenth holiday.

**PRACTICING THE SKILL**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the paragraph that follows. Then choose the letter of the best answer in each statement below.

The Freedmen's Bureau was established on March 3, 1865, several weeks before the war ended. The United States Congress could see the need for protecting the freed slaves. President Johnson believed that Congress

could not pass the bill, because the 11 Southern states had no representation. As a result, he vetoed the bill. Congress overrode his veto in July.

1. Which sentence contains a cause?
  - A. the first sentence
  - B. the last sentence
  - C. the second sentence
  - D. the fourth sentence
2. Which sentence contains an effect?
  - A. the fourth sentence
  - B. the first sentence
  - C. the third sentence
  - D. the second sentence