

"Disaster in Space"
April/May 2007

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why It Happened

Your mom took you out for ice cream last night. Why did that happen? Because you helped her clean out the garage. You studied extra hard for your vocab test today. What happened? You got an A. Those are two examples of "cause and effect." The trick to figuring out causes and effects is asking those two questions: "Why did this happen?" (to find a cause) and "What happened?" (to find an effect). Use those questions to find the cause-and-effect pairs in "Disaster in Space."

Directions: Fill in what's missing from each cause-and-effect pair. When you're thinking about effects, don't just think about what happened right away. Think about how the event affected the action over time.

1. CAUSE: Space travel seemed safe and routine to most Americans.

EFFECT: _____

2. CAUSE: _____

EFFECT: Bobby was worried about Captain Lovell and the other two astronauts.

3. CAUSE: There wasn't enough air or power in the command module.

EFFECT: _____

4. CAUSE: The engineers on the ground were people of great ingenuity.

EFFECT: _____

5. CAUSE: _____

EFFECT: The astronauts were immediately rescued at sea.

Now, on your own, find two cause-and-effect relationships from the story.

6. CAUSE: _____

EFFECT: _____

7. CAUSE: _____

EFFECT: _____