

Ask What, Ask Why

You eat three bowls of pasta. What happens? You get a stomachache. You ace your piano recital. Why? You practiced every day. It's easy to figure out cause-and-effect relationships by asking two simple questions: "What happened?" (to find an effect) and "Why did this happen?" (to find a cause). Try it out to find the cause-and-effect relationships in "Everything Turned to Dust."

Directions: Fill in what's missing from each cause-and-effect pair. Use the hints to help you.

1. **CAUSE:** _____

EFFECT: American Indians no longer had enough food to eat or clothes to wear.

HINT: *What role did the frontiersmen play in altering the Indians' way of life?*

2. **CAUSE:** The American government declared that the soil was a resource that "could not be used up."

EFFECT: _____

HINT: *What did farmers do to the landscape?*

3. **CAUSE:** _____

EFFECT: The once-fertile soil turned to dust.

HINT: *What had farmers done to expose the earth to the sun's beating rays?*

4. **CAUSE:** There was a massive drought.

EFFECT: _____

HINT: *What happens to crops when they don't receive enough rain?*

5. **CAUSE:** The Black Sunday storm destroyed the Smathers' farm.

EFFECT: _____

HINT: *What big change did they make after the storm died down?*

6. **CAUSE:** _____

EFFECT: Many people lost their jobs.

HINT: *What big economic event was happening in the country at the time?*

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

7. **CAUSE:** _____

EFFECT: _____

8. **CAUSE:** _____

EFFECT: _____