

Island of the Blue Dolphins, Chapter 26
Cause and Effect in the Environment

Grade Level

Upper Elementary: Third Grade through Fifth Grade

Subject

Literacy and Language Arts, Science

Common Core Standards

RI.3.3

Next Generation Science Standards

3-LS3-2

Background Information

Like scientists, the characters in *Island of the Blue Dolphins* identify cause and effect relationships in the natural world.

This activity challenges students to recognize patterns and sequences of events. Students investigate how organisms can be influenced by the environment and illustrate this in a cause-and-effect matching activity.

Materials

- Copy of the activity sheet for each student (provided)
- Class set of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Procedure

1. Pass out activity sheets and give students directions for the activity. Explain that one column contains *causes* and the other column the resulting *effects* of specific events occurring in *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.
2. Model the exercise by using the first example on the activity sheet or by providing a real-world example to spark discussion about cause and effect. For example, demonstrate how the reflexes of the knee work by gently hitting your own knee. What happens?
3. Monitor students as you give them time to complete the activity sheet.
4. Review the answers in pairs, small groups, or as a class.
5. To shorten this activity: As a class, create a skit to demonstrate one example of environmental cause and effect present in *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Lead a class discussion to ensure that all students understand the relationship between the two events.
6. To lengthen this activity: Have students write a short story based on an environmental cause and effect of their own choosing.

Name _____

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Directions: Complete the matching activity below. One column contains causes and the other column the resulting effects of events depicted in *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Draw arrows from the cause to the effect that best matches what happens in the book.

CAUSES	EFFECTS
There is little rain during the winter months to fill the island's springs.	Karana swims back to shore to be with her brother.
Karana clips the wings of two birds.	A boat sent by Chief Kimki comes for the villagers.
The villagers leave their dogs behind on the island.	The white man's ship must leave the island quickly.
Karana feeds the sea otter pup.	Karana's father is killed during battle.
High ocean tides bury and damage Karana's canoe.	The dogs form a wild pack to survive.
Chief Kimki leaves the village to seek outside help.	The sea otter needs Karana to feed it.
A dangerous storm brews on the island.	Karana must repair her canoe with island materials.
Warriors fight during the battle on the beach.	The villagers worry about water.
Karana's brother misses the boat.	Karana crafts her own weapons.
Karana is alone and must defend herself.	The birds cannot fly.