



What's the Matter?

Springboard:

Students should complete the "Causes and Effects" handout.

Objective: The student will be able to identify causes of local, regional, national, and global problems.

Materials: Causes and Effects (Springboard handouts or transparency)
Pressing Problems (completed transparency from previous lesson)
Tell Me, "Why?" (handouts)

Procedure:

- In discussing the Springboard, be aware that there are many possible ways to match the causes and effects since many societal ills are interrelated. The activity is intended to stimulate thought and discussion.
- Following the discussion, display the "Pressing Problems" transparency from the previous lesson and explain that each of the problems can have many causes.
- Distribute the "Tell Me, 'Why?'" handouts. Students should work individually or in small groups to select three problems. They should research each, using information from the previous lesson, the Internet, and/or media resources to complete the handout.
- Have students share their causes and discuss. In the discussion make the point that some of the causes can be addressed, while others cannot (drought, for example, is beyond our control).
- Have students then look back at their handouts and cross out any causes that are beyond human control. (You could also have them cross out causes that are well beyond the ability of students to impact, such as cruel dictators that would take military force to oust from power.)

Sample Answer

PROBLEM # 1 Hunger :

Poverty – People can't afford to buy food.

Homelessness – People on the streets have little/no money.

A family's crops fail or produce little due to drought.

Elderly or sick shut-ins have no way to get to a market to buy food.

Relief efforts in war-torn countries can't get food to those in need.

People intentionally starve themselves (anorexia).

Unemployment – The supporting adult loses his/her job and doesn't or can't buy food for the family.

Causes and Effects

DIRECTIONS: Match each **CAUSE** in the left-hand column with its problematic **EFFECT** in the right-hand column. Be prepared to explain your answers.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ hunger | a. protests |
| _____ rain deficit | b. DUI deaths |
| _____ divorce | c. weight problem |
| _____ disease | d. destruction of families |
| _____ eviction | e. bullying |
| _____ use of drugs | f. anorexia |
| _____ mistreatment | g. large expenses |
| _____ greed | h. stealing |
| _____ depression | i. refugees |
| _____ overeating | j. sadness |
| _____ poverty | k. high crime rate |
| _____ violence | l. torture |
| _____ destruction of families | m. addiction |
| _____ illegal guns | n. terrorism |
| _____ obsession with weight | o. starvation |
| _____ lack of friends | p. homelessness |
| _____ military governments | q. misery |
| _____ wars | r. violent crimes |
| _____ underage drinking | s. pollution |
| _____ religious extremism | t. gangs |
| _____ bullying | u. suicide |
| _____ school cliques | v. depression |
| _____ gang activity | w. death |
| _____ smoking | x. school violence |
| _____ physical abuse | y. drought |
| _____ alcoholism | z. physical and mental abuse |

Causes and Effects Suggestions for Answers

DIRECTIONS: Match each **CAUSE** in the left-hand column with its problematic **EFFECT** in the right-hand column. Be prepared to explain your answers.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p><u>O, H, J, Q</u> hunger</p> <p><u>Y, O, S</u> rain deficit</p> <p><u>D, J, Q, V</u> divorce</p> <p><u>G, W, O, D</u> disease</p> <p><u>P, D</u> eviction</p> <p><u>M, K, W, T</u> use of drugs</p> <p><u>A, E, I, T</u> mistreatment</p> <p><u>H, K, R, X</u> greed</p> <p><u>U, D, Q</u> depression</p> <p><u>C, M, J, E</u> overeating</p> <p><u>K, P, T, Z</u> poverty</p> <p><u>T, W, I, A</u> violence</p> <p><u>K, O, V, P</u> destruction of families</p> <p><u>K, W, T, X</u> illegal guns</p> <p><u>F, C, V</u> obsession with weight</p> <p><u>V, X, E, T</u> lack of friends</p> <p><u>L, Z, A, I</u> military governments</p> <p><u>I, W, A, Q</u> wars</p> <p><u>B, M, X</u> underage drinking</p> <p><u>N, Z, I</u> religious extremism</p> <p><u>X, Z, J, U</u> bullying</p> <p><u>E, T, V</u> school cliques</p> <p><u>K, X, H</u> gang activity</p> <p><u>M, G, S</u> smoking</p> <p><u>D, V, U</u> physical abuse</p> <p><u>B, P, M</u> alcoholism</p> | <p>a. protests</p> <p>b. DUI deaths</p> <p>c. weight problem</p> <p>d. destruction of families</p> <p>e. bullying</p> <p>f. anorexia</p> <p>g. large expenses</p> <p>h. stealing</p> <p>i. refugees</p> <p>j. sadness</p> <p>k. high crime rate</p> <p>l. torture</p> <p>m. addiction</p> <p>n. terrorism</p> <p>o. starvation</p> <p>p. homelessness</p> <p>q. misery</p> <p>r. violent crimes</p> <p>s. pollution</p> <p>t. gangs</p> <p>u. suicide</p> <p>v. depression</p> <p>w. death</p> <p>x. school violence</p> <p>y. drought</p> <p>z. physical and mental abuse</p> |
|--|--|

NOTE: Other answers are also acceptable, as long as students can support them.

Tell Me, "Why?"



DIRECTIONS: Select three problems that interest or concern you. Using news articles or other resources, identify as many **CAUSES** or related issues for each problem as you can find or think of.

PROBLEM # 1 _____:

PROBLEM # 2 _____:

PROBLEM # 3 _____: