# What Caused It?

Sort the causes of a town's water crisis.

**8.P.2.2.C** "Distinguish multiple causation, including immediate versus long-term cause-effect relationships; construct timelines of related events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

**IMMEDIATE CAUSE**

An immediate cause happens close to the event and helps set it off.

A sudden gust topples a carnival tent.

**LONG-TERM CAUSE**

A long-term cause builds over months or years and helps create the conditions for an event.

Years of wear weaken a carnival tent's supports before it falls.

## 1 SORT

8 items

A town faces a water crisis on June 15; circle IMMEDIATE or LONG-TERM for each cause, then choose two items and explain how you knew where each belonged.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | From 2016 to 2025, the town delayed pipe repairs. | IMMEDIATE LONG-TERM |
| **2.** | From 2022 to 2025, dry seasons lowered the reservoir. | IMMEDIATE LONG-TERM |
| **3.** | On June 14, a water main broke. | IMMEDIATE LONG-TERM |
| **4.** | From 2019 to 2025, new homes increased water use. | IMMEDIATE LONG-TERM |
| **5.** | On June 15, the main pump stopped working. | IMMEDIATE LONG-TERM |
| **6.** | On June 14, a power failure shut down a backup pump. | IMMEDIATE LONG-TERM |
| **7.** | On June 15, a valve snapped shut and blocked water flow. | IMMEDIATE LONG-TERM |
| **8.** | From 2020 to 2025, the town added no new storage tanks. | IMMEDIATE LONG-TERM |

## 2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

## 3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new immediate cause and one new long-term cause that could add to the town's water crisis.

**IMMEDIATE** _____

**LONG-TERM** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write a three-event timeline in date order using one long-term cause, one immediate cause, and the June 15 water crisis; then explain how both causes are connected.

**ANSWER KEY**

# What Caused It?

**GRADE 8 · 8.P.2.2.C**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | From 2016 to 2025, the town delayed pipe repairs. | **LONG-TERM** | The lack of repairs built up over years. |
| 2 | From 2022 to 2025, dry seasons lowered the reservoir. | **LONG-TERM** | The water supply declined over several years. |
| 3 | On June 14, a water main broke. | **IMMEDIATE** | A single break occurred just before the crisis. |
| 4 | From 2019 to 2025, new homes increased water use. | **LONG-TERM** | Demand grew over several years. |
| 5 | On June 15, the main pump stopped working. | **IMMEDIATE** | A sudden failure occurred on the day of the crisis. |
| 6 | On June 14, a power failure shut down a backup pump. | **IMMEDIATE** | A sudden failure occurred just before the crisis. |
| 7 | On June 15, a valve snapped shut and blocked water flow. | **IMMEDIATE** | A sudden blockage occurred on the day of the crisis. |
| 8 | From 2020 to 2025, the town added no new storage tanks. | **LONG-TERM** | The town's storage capacity failed to grow over years. |

## PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

## PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **IMMEDIATE**: On June 15, a lightning strike disabled the water plant.
- **LONG-TERM**: From 2018 to 2025, small leaks slowly wasted water.

**Challenge:** 2016 to 2025: The town delayed pipe repairs. June 14: A water main broke. June 15: The town faced a water crisis. Delayed repairs left pipes more likely to break, and the break disrupted water service.

For Part 2, a valid explanation could note that item 1 spans years, while item 3 is a single event just before June 15. Accept other explanations that use the timing and nature of each cause.