What Sparked It?

Sort the causes behind historic events.

8.P.2 "Use interdisciplinary tools to acquire, apply, and evaluate content understanding of the four strands of social studies. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of government, the benefits of democratic systems..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

IMMEDIATE CAUSE

A trigger is a specific event that leads quickly to another event. It is not always the only cause.

A library closes for the day when a pipe bursts.

LONG-TERM CAUSE

A root cause develops over many years. It helps explain why an event happened.

Decades of rising rent lead a bookstore to relocate.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle TRIGGER or ROOT for each item, then for Part 2, choose two items from different categories and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	Before World War I, decades of competing military alliances raised the risk of war in Europe.	TRIGGER ROOT
2.	Years of segregation on Montgomery buses helped lead to the 1955 bus boycott.	TRIGGER ROOT
3.	The 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand set off a crisis that led to World War I.	TRIGGER ROOT
4.	Japan's years of military expansion in Asia increased tensions with the United States before it entered World War II.	TRIGGER ROOT
5.	Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor prompted the United States to declare war on Japan the next day.	TRIGGER ROOT
6.	Rosa Parks's arrest helped spark the Montgomery bus boycott days later.	TRIGGER ROOT
7.	Years of drought and soil erosion helped drive migration from the Great Plains in the 1930s.	TRIGGER ROOT
8.	The Black Sunday dust storm of 1935 prompted some Great Plains families to decide to leave.	TRIGGER ROOT

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

For Part 3, write one new example of a TRIGGER and one new example of a ROOT.

TRIGGER _____

ROOT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one event from Part 1 that has both a TRIGGER and a ROOT, name the two item numbers, and explain in two sentences how the causes work together.

ANSWER KEY

What Sparked It?

GRADE 8 · 8.P.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Before World War I, decades of competing military alliances raised the risk of war in Europe.	**ROOT**	The alliances developed over decades.
2	Years of segregation on Montgomery buses helped lead to the 1955 bus boycott.	**ROOT**	The unfair rules had existed for years.
3	The 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand set off a crisis that led to World War I.	**TRIGGER**	The assassination was a specific event that set the crisis in motion.
4	Japan's years of military expansion in Asia increased tensions with the United States before it entered World War II.	**ROOT**	The expansion and tensions developed over years.
5	Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor prompted the United States to declare war on Japan the next day.	**TRIGGER**	The attack was a specific event followed quickly by a declaration of war.
6	Rosa Parks's arrest helped spark the Montgomery bus boycott days later.	**TRIGGER**	The arrest was a specific event shortly before the boycott began.
7	Years of drought and soil erosion helped drive migration from the Great Plains in the 1930s.	**ROOT**	These conditions developed over years.
8	The Black Sunday dust storm of 1935 prompted some Great Plains families to decide to leave.	**TRIGGER**	The storm was a specific event that prompted a decision.

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)

- **TRIGGER**: A school closes for a day after its heating system fails.
- **ROOT**: Years of rising housing costs cause a neighborhood's population to fall.

Challenge: Items 2 and 6 both relate to the Montgomery bus boycott. Years of segregation created pressure for change, and Rosa Parks's arrest helped prompt the boycott soon afterward.

For Part 2, look for explanations that identify a specific event followed quickly by a result or a condition that developed over years. Accept other historically sound challenge pairs, such as items 1 and 3 or items 4 and 5.