

Fire Across Chicago

Trace how conditions and events changed the 1871 Chicago Fire.

S.VS.f "identifying cause-and-effect relationships to clarify and explain content;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Find and underline the four sentences that directly show cause and effect, circle each cause, and draw a box around its effect to show how events were connected.

The Chicago Fire

- ① In October 1871, Chicago had been dry for weeks. Wood sidewalks, sheds, and homes dried out. On the evening of October 8, a fire started in a barn on DeKoven Street. Because the dry wooden materials caught fire easily, the flames grew quickly. Firefighters were already tired from fighting another fire the night before across town.
- ② Strong winds pushed sparks from one building to another. Since many wooden buildings stood close together, the fire crossed streets and spread fast. People carried water buckets, but firefighters had trouble controlling the growing fire. During the dark night, the flames lit the sky over Chicago. City leaders later studied ways to make future fires less destructive.
- ③ By October 10, rain began to fall, and winds became weaker. Because the rain made the fire harder to feed and the winds carried fewer sparks, the fire slowed and finally stopped. More than 17,000 buildings were destroyed, and many people had to find new homes. Chicago residents rebuilt the city with more brick and stone buildings.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What caused the flames to grow quickly at the start of the fire?

2 What effect did the strong winds have on the fire?

3 Why did the fire cross streets and spread fast?

4 How did rain and weaker winds affect the fire?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine city leaders want to reduce harm from a future fire. Name one action they could take, then write two sentences that explain the cause and effect of that action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Find and underline the four sentences that directly show cause and effect, circle each cause, and draw a box around its effect to show how events were connected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What caused the flames to grow quickly at the start of the fire?	The dry wooden materials caught fire easily.
2	What effect did the strong winds have on the fire?	They pushed sparks from one building to another.
3	Why did the fire cross streets and spread fast?	Many wooden buildings stood close together.
4	How did rain and weaker winds affect the fire?	The rain made the fire harder to feed, and weaker winds carried fewer sparks, so the fire slowed and stopped.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

City leaders could require new buildings to be made of brick or stone. This action would make it harder for flames to spread from one building to another.

Accept answers that accurately name a cause and its effect from the passage. For Your Turn, accept one reasonable fire-safety action with a clear, logical effect explained in exactly two sentences.