

Name: _____

Date: _____

Identifying Cause and Effect in a Passage

Remember that a **cause** is why something happened, and the **effect** is what happened.

Example: There was a loud boom of thunder, and my dog began to scratch at the door.

Cause: Loud boom of thunder

Effect: The dog scratched at the door

Read the short passage and answer the questions that follow.

In the United States, the Southern States were agricultural. This means that many people were farmers. During the early and mid-1800's one of the main crops grown in the South was cotton. The Southern farmers needed a way to harvest the cotton that was cheap. So, they used slaves to work on their large cotton farms, called plantations. Slaves were not free. The farmers owned the slaves, and could do what they wanted to with the slaves. If a slave was not able to be useful to the farmer, the slave could be sold. Sometimes children were separated from their parents, and husbands and wives were separated, too.

Many people realized that slavery was wrong. In the Northern states, many called for the end of slavery, and began to speak out about freeing the slaves. This made the Southern farmers angry because if they did not have the slaves to help work on their farms, they could not produce their crops. The argument over slavery divided the Northern and Southern states, and eventually the Southern states decided they did not want to be a part of the United States any longer. However, President Abraham Lincoln said that they could not leave the United States, and the Civil War started between the Northern states and the Southern states. Many people died during the war, but after five years of fighting, the Northern states won. All of the slaves were freed.

1. What caused the Southern states to need to use slaves?

2. What was one negative effect of slavery?

3. What caused the Southern states to decide to leave the United States?

4. List two effects of the Civil War.

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1. What caused the Southern states to need to use slaves?

They needed a way to harvest the crops on their large farms.

2. What was one negative effect of slavery?

Families were separated.

3. What caused the Southern states to decide to leave the United States?

They were angry about the call to end slavery.

4. List two effects of the Civil War.

Many people died.

The slaves were freed.
