Cause and Effect in Texts

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Why Your Ears Pop

Have you ever ridden in an airplane and felt your ears pop? Maybe it happened in a fast elevator or on a drive up a mountain. That pop is caused by air pressure, and your body has a clever way of handling it.

Air is all around us, and it presses on everything it touches. This push is called air pressure. Near the ground, a thick layer of air sits above us, so the pressure is high. High up on a mountain or in a plane, there is less air overhead, so the pressure is lower.

Inside each ear, behind the eardrum, is a small pocket filled with air. Usually, the air pressure inside this pocket matches the pressure outside. When you go up quickly, though, the outside pressure drops. The air inside your ear is now pushing harder than the air outside. As a result, your eardrum bulges outward a tiny bit. That is why your ears feel full, and sounds may seem muffled.

Luckily, each ear has a narrow tube that connects it to the back of your throat. When you swallow or yawn, the tube opens for a moment. Some of the extra air escapes, and the pressure inside matches the outside again. The eardrum snaps back into place, and you hear a pop.

The same thing happens in reverse when a plane comes down. The outside pressure rises, so air must flow back into the ear. This is why flight attendants often suggest chewing gum or sipping water during landing. Both actions make you swallow, which opens the tubes. A cold can cause trouble, however. A stuffy nose can block the tubes, so the pressure cannot even out, and your ears may ache.

1. Why is air pressure lower high on a mountain?

   The wind blows the air away.

   There is less air above pressing down.

   The air there is warmer and lighter.

2. What happens to the eardrum when you go up quickly?

   It opens like a tube.

   It is pushed inward a tiny bit.

   It bulges outward a tiny bit.

3. Why do your ears feel full when a plane climbs?

The tube to the throat stays open the whole time.

The air outside the ear pushes harder than the air inside.

The air inside the ear pushes harder than the air outside.

4. What effect does swallowing have on your ears?

It makes the outside pressure drop.

It opens the tube so air can move.

It closes the tube so air stays in.

5. What causes the pop that you hear?

air rushing past the plane's window

the throat closing during a yawn

the eardrum snapping back into place

6. Which signal words show an effect in the third paragraph?

Usually Inside each ear As a result

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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