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Analyzing Events and Concepts

RI.3.3

Vocabulary

cacao
calculated
discrimination
lawyer

People, events, and ideas all relate to each other. When you read, you have to think about these relationships. This helps you better understand what you read.

As you read, think about how events flow. Events flow from one to the next. Events relate to each other. The order in which events happen is called **sequence**. Whether you are reading about someone's life or how to do something, there is a sequence of events to follow. Look for clue words that show the sequence. These are words like *first, second, next, before, following, finally, now, after, and then*.

You may also want help understanding why things happen. You can ask yourself, "Why did that happen?" That is the **cause**. Then ask, "What happened?" This is the **effect**. Look for clue words that signal **causes**: *if, because, since, due to*. These clue words signal **effects**: *then, so, as a result of, that is why*.

Guided Practice

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The History of Chocolate

by Stacy Rummel

When was the last time you ate a chocolate chip cookie? Did you stop to think how we get chocolate or where it comes from?

Over 2,000 years ago, the people of Mexico and Central America found the cacao tree. It was growing in the rainforest. The tree had pods. The seeds in the pods were crushed and made into chocolate.



cacao
seeds from which
chocolate is made



Mayan people planted the tree in their own yards. They mashed the seeds using a stone. They mixed the seeds with spices to make a drink. They sold the seeds to Aztec traders. They liked the drink, but they could not grow the trees.

Later, cacao seeds were also used as money. While shopping, people could pay for the food, clothes, and items they bought at the market with cacao seeds. Some people tried to trick others by making fake cacao seeds.

The Spanish came to Central America and Mexico in 1500s. They brought cacao seeds back to Spain with them. They made new recipes. After a while, the favorite drink spread across Europe and the rest of the world.

Where do cacao trees grow best? They grow in the shade below taller trees of the rainforest. Cacao trees have flowers on them. They do not produce fruit until they are 3 to 5 years old.

How many seeds come from one cacao pod? There are between 30 and 50 seeds that come from one pod. The seeds are the size of an almond. The seeds from one pod can make about seven candy bars.

The next time you eat a piece of chocolate, think about how people used it long ago!

According to the passage, which of these events happened *first*?

- A** Cacao seeds were used as money.
- B** The Spanish brought cacao seeds back to Spain.
- C** The drink spread to Europe and around the world.
- D** People found the cacao tree growing in the rainforest.

✓ Knowing the order of events is important. You can use the dates to help you. You can use words like *later* or *after that*. Look back at the text. Choice D is the correct answer. People find the cacao tree before the other events.

How did the Mayans use the cacao seeds to make a drink?



The passage tells us the steps the Mayans followed. Here is a sample answer:

The Mayans mashed the cacao seeds using a stone.
Then they mixed the seeds with spices to make a drink.

Why were cacao seeds used as money?



To answer this question, think about what you know about money. Put that together with what you learn in the text. Here is a sample answer:

Many people liked cacao seeds. They made a popular drink. People could pay for the things they bought with the seeds because they were worth something and well liked. It was almost like a trade.

Test Yourself

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.



calculated
to determine

Earthquake!

Have you felt an earthquake? An earthquake is the sudden shaking of the ground. They happen along fault lines of Earth's crust. Scientists cannot tell when an earthquake will happen. They are working to be able to in the future.

The power of an earthquake can be calculated. Some earthquakes are felt more than others. You may see hanging pictures move or hear items on shelves rattle during an earthquake. The Richter scale measures earthquakes. An earthquake that is less than 4.0 does not usually break things. Those that are less than 2.0 cannot be felt. An earthquake that is 7.0 is a big earthquake. Earthquakes usually last less than one minute.



If there is an earthquake, there are a few things you should do. You should drop, cover, and hold. Get down on the ground. Cover yourself with something that will protect you, like the kitchen table. Hold on to it until the shaking stops. Make sure to stay away from windows. If you are outside, get away from buildings, streetlights, and poles. The most important thing to do is to stay calm.

There may be after shocks after the earthquake. These are smaller earthquakes that can cause more damage.

In 1906, there was an earthquake that measured 6.7 on the Richter scale. It happened in San Francisco, California. Someone that experienced it said, "It was like riding a bicycle down a long flight of stairs."

1 Which of these is the *first* thing you should do if there is an earthquake?

- A Get down on the ground.
- B Hold on until the shaking stops.
- C Turn off all the lights in the house.
- D Cover yourself with something that will protect you.

2 An earthquake happens along ____.

- A holes
- B fault lines
- C narrow streets
- D buildings that line the street

3 The *most* important thing to do during an earthquake is ____.

- A stay calm
- B stay near windows
- C go outside to see what is happening
- D call your mom to make sure she is fine

4 What happens during an earthquake?
