

Cause and Effect

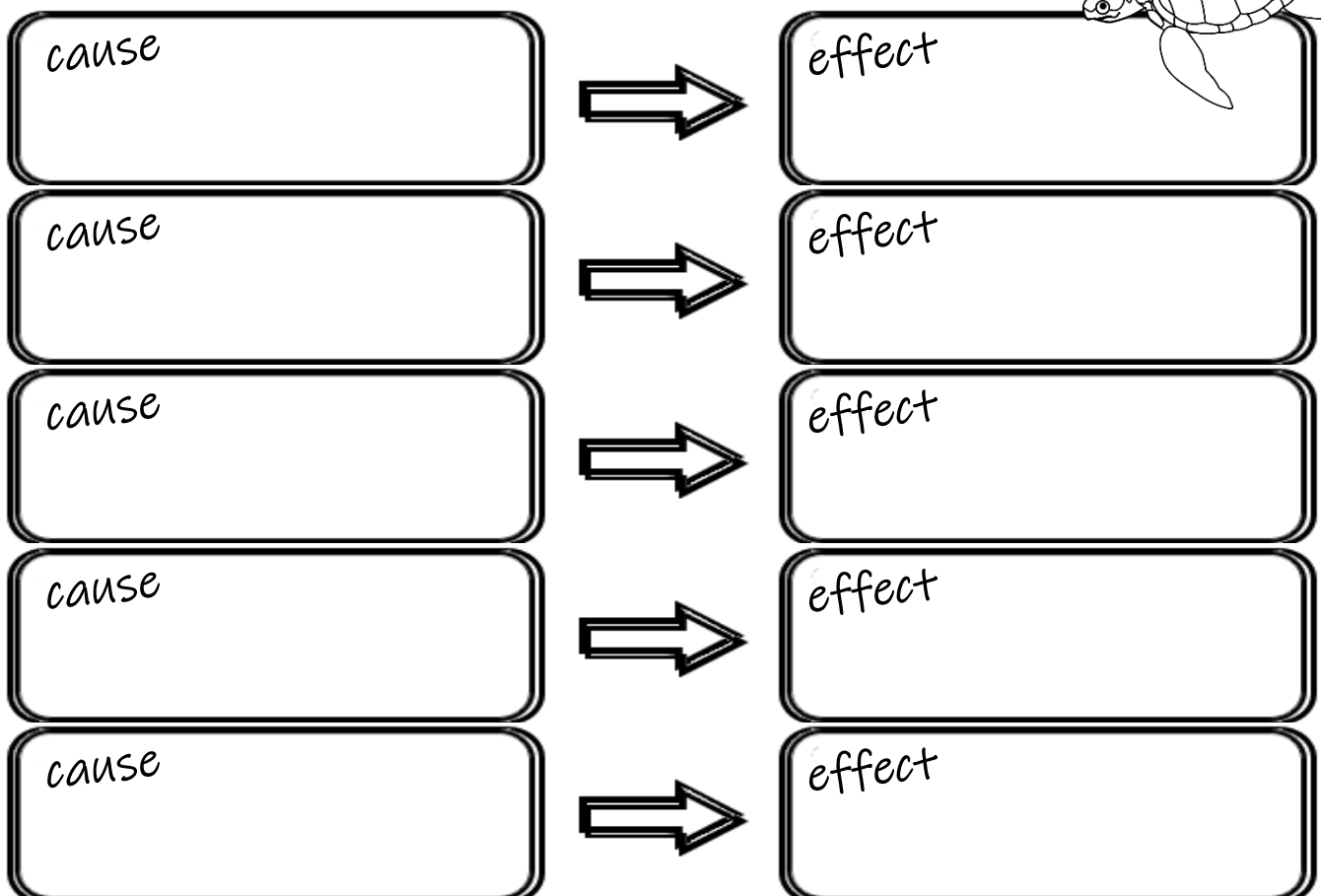
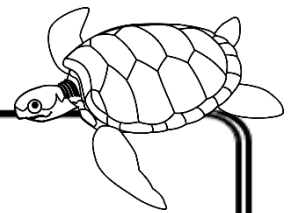
Human Threats to Sea Turtles

All seven species of the sea turtle are classified as either endangered or vulnerable. They face many threats, several of which are caused by human action. One common threat is 'ghost nets'. 'Ghost nets' are fishing nets that have been left or lost by fishermen. When a turtle becomes tangled in one of these nets, they cannot swim to the surface. As a result, they drown.

Another threat sea turtles face comes from plastic bags that are floating in the ocean. Turtles often mistake these plastic bags for jellyfish and eat the plastic. The plastic causes the turtle to become sick and die.

Water pollution poisons the turtles' habitat, killing animals and other marine life such as seagrass. Seagrass is an important food source for turtles. Consequently, sea turtles may need to rely on other food sources. This can result in other problems.

Sea turtles are also at risk of being injured or killed from boat propellers. Turtles are difficult to spot for people driving boats. There are sometimes collisions and, as hard as a turtle's shell is, the metal propellers cut into the turtle.



Extension: The third paragraph states that if sea turtles are forced to rely on other food sources, this can cause problems. Can you think of what problems this could cause other animals?