

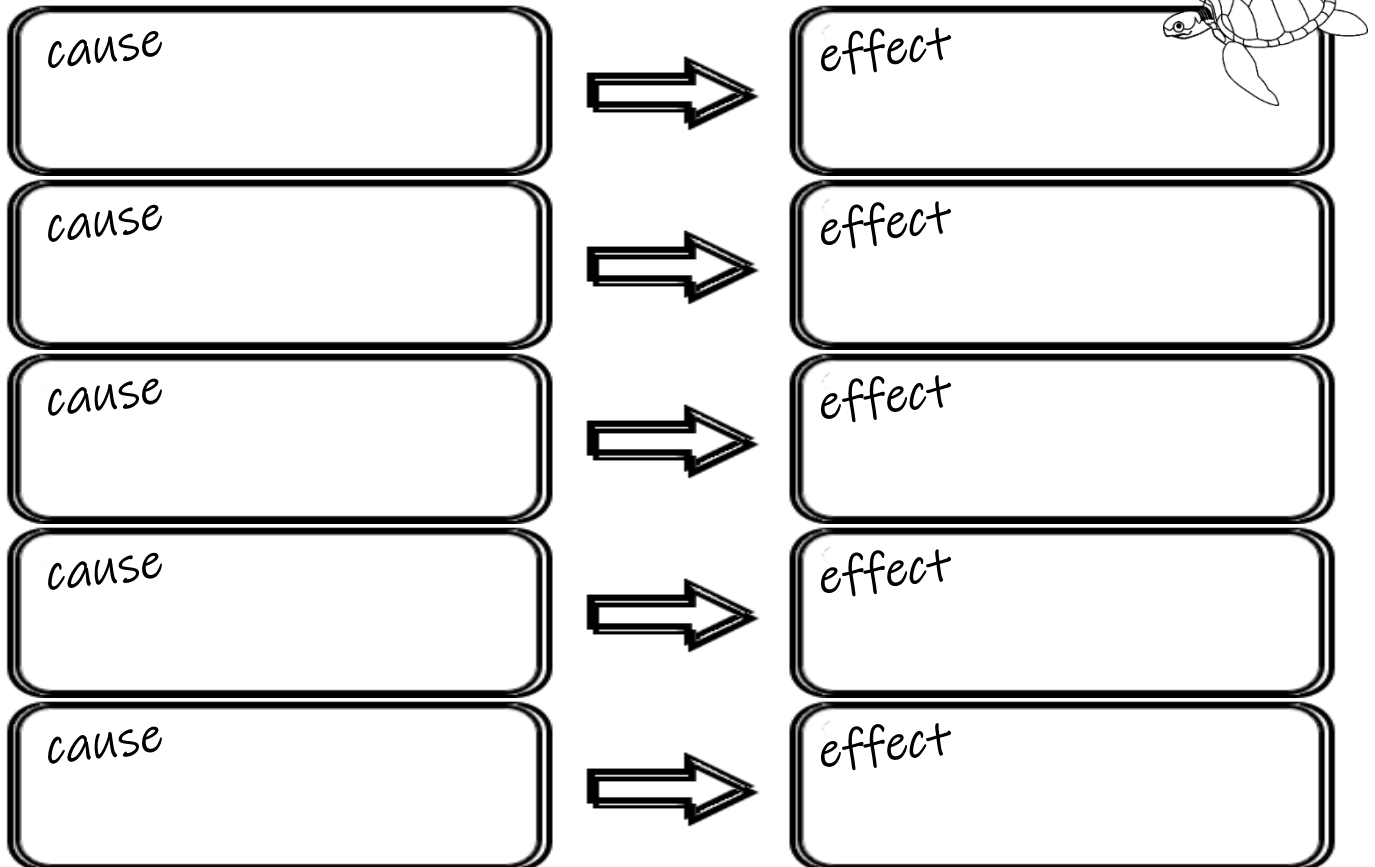
Cause and Effect

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 lost or discarded 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. Eating plastic can choke or poison turtles, causing them to 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, a lack of seagrass would cause sea turtles to rely on other food sources. This can lead to wider ranging problems.

Sea turtles are also at risk of being injured or killed from boat propellers. Turtles are difficult to spot for people driving boats and as a result, there are sometimes collisions. Metal propellers can cut into a turtle's shell, injuring or killing the turtle.



Extension: The third paragraph states that other problems can occur if sea turtles are forced to rely on other food sources. What problems could this cause?