

# CAUSATION—ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

## Preparation

- Download the WHP LEQ Writing Rubric

## Purpose

Historical events and processes are usually complicated and rarely have one cause. In fact, they often have multiple causes, some of which occurred long before the event while others happened right before the event took place. Understanding how these causes relate to the historical event or process being studied is central to analyzing change over time, and perhaps even helpful in predicting what might come next. In this activity, you will analyze how environmental change came about and then write a causal essay describing what you think are the biggest causes of environmental change over time. Given the current state of our globe's climate, this is a timely and relevant topic for everyone to consider.

## Process

In this activity, you will review what you've learned about environmental change in this lesson, complete the Causation Tool, and write a five- to six-paragraph essay in response to this prompt:

*Develop an argument that evaluates the two most significant causes **AND** the two most significant effects of environmental change from 1900 to the present.*

Feel free to use resources from the course and conduct your own research as needed. Review the WHP LEQ Writing Rubric before you write your essay so that you are sure to incorporate all the elements of good writing you've been learning about throughout the course. Remember that historians always contextualize for the reader. Additionally, historians source the documents they use and support their claims (and counterclaims) with solid reasoning and evidence.

Your teacher will collect your worksheets and essays at the end of class to assess your understanding of this content and the historical reasoning process of causation.



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Name:

Date:

## Causation Tool

**Directions:** First, add the event you are analyzing (in the middle of the page). Be sure to include dates, location, and a brief description of the event. Then, list your causes (at the top of the page) and use the legend to help you label *type* and *role*. Finally, list the effects of the event (bottom of page), and again use the legend to help you label *type* and *role*. If your teacher asks you to create a causal map, use your answers here to help construct that causal representation.

### Causes: Long-Term

### Intermediate-Term

### Short-Term

### Event (include the name, dates, location, and a brief description)

### Effects

### Legend

**Type:**

(P) Political (I) Innovation (\$) Economic (C) Cultural (E) Environmental (S) Social

**Role:**(\*) Triggering Event Necessary Relevant