

CAUSATION—RECIPE FOR A REVOLUTION

Preparation

- Download the [Tea, Taxes, and the American Revolution: Crash Course World History #28 video or transcript](#)
- Download [The French Revolution: Crash Course World History #29 video or transcript](#)
- Download the [Latin American Revolutions: Crash Course World History #31 video or transcript](#)

Purpose

In this activity, you'll create a recipe that explains the causes for a particular political revolution. Since revolutions are often messy (and bloody!), analyzing the causes and categorizing them will allow you to expand your understanding of how causation helps to explain historical processes and how historians focus on particular causes to shape people's understanding of these events.

Practices

Comparison, claim testing

You will further develop your causation skills by comparing different revolutions. By evaluating the similarities between revolutions, you will be able to understand causal relationships more fully, specifically as they relate to the causes of revolutions across different temporal and spatial settings. As always, you should claim test the assertions you make in order to provide sound logic and solid reasoning when determining the causes and effects of a historical event.

Process

For this activity, you'll be creating a recipe to "cook up" a political revolution. First, you'll be assigned one of the revolutions you've learned about earlier in this lesson. Then, your task will be to create a recipe that consists of causes (your list of ingredients) for your revolution. You'll also include detailed directions about how to combine all the ingredients in your recipe. These directions will actually be an account of how the causes led to a revolution.

Part 1: Categorizing Causes

First, your teacher will break the class into groups of two to three students and assign each group one of the following political revolutions: American, French, or Latin American. Then your teacher will either hand out or have you download the Causation—Recipe for a Revolution worksheet, which includes the Causation Tool, and have you review the video or video transcript for your assigned revolution. While watching or reading, make a list of all the causes and consequences you can find for your assigned revolution. You might need to conduct additional research to find enough causes (eight to ten) to create your recipe. If you do conduct outside research, make sure someone in your group keeps a list of where you found your information/sources. As you research, be sure to include the appropriate evidence (that is, the "good" evidence) for the causes and effects for your revolution. These might include dates, key terms, and names that relate to the revolution.

After your group has identified all your causes and effects, categorize your causes and add the effects to the Causation Tool.



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Then, review a few categories of causation, along with the language we use to describe them:

- Time: Long term, intermediate term, and short term
- Historical significance:
 - Amount—How many people’s lives were affected by the cause/effect?
 - Depth—Were people living in the time period being studied deeply affected by the cause/effect?
 - Endurance—Were the changes people experienced as a result of this cause/effect long-lasting and/or recurring?

In this activity, you are adding one more category: Type. Categorizing causes by historical type will help you group similar causes together, which is the kind of analysis that historians do when they categorize the economic or political causes of an event or process. Review the different categories for type. There’s also a mnemonic device to help you remember these categories: PIECES.

- Type: Historical type
 - (P) Political—What type of government, organization, or power structure was there? Who was in charge? Did people vote or have a say?
 - (I) Innovation—What did they invent? Were there any new developments or technologies?
 - (\$) Economic—What jobs were there? Did they use money? Did they trade?
 - (C) Cultural—What/whom did they worship? What/whom did they believe in? Did they have written language? Did they leave any artifacts behind, such as art, customs, sports, dress, language, music, dance, foods, celebrations?
 - (E) Environmental—How did they attempt to control or use the environment? What impact did the land, water, and nature around them have on the way they lived?
 - (S) Social—Were there different roles for men and women? Did they live in family units? Did they interact with other groups? Did they have a social structure (enslaved, priests, kings)?

This categorization process can be difficult, and you may not agree on the time, significance, or type. However, you should be able to back up your claims with evidence. In fact, historians don’t always agree on these topics either, which is why there are often different perspectives or histories written about the same historical event or process.

Part 2: Creating the Recipe

Use your causes from the Causation Tool to create your recipe for revolution. Here are the steps you’ll have to follow to create your recipe:

1. Write the list of “ingredients” (the causes of the revolution). Note: You should have eight to ten causes in your list of ingredients.
2. Next, rank your causes from most essential to least essential, with 1 being the most essential. This will be your ingredient list for the recipe. Then, explain how your top three ingredients compare with the bottom three. Ranking the causes will help you understand the relative significance of each cause.

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3. Create “directions” (that is, preparation steps). This can be accomplished by answering the following question: How does each cause come together (or get “mixed”) to create revolution? Think about the verbs you might see in a recipe such as mix, blend, stir, chop, and sprinkle. There are lots of other examples—use your imagination! Your directions must include:
- The event that triggered the revolution
 - Timeframe/periodization
 - Historical context

Your teacher may have you share your recipes with the class, and will collect your worksheets and use them to assess how your causation skills are progressing.

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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

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Name:

Date:

Part 2: Creating Your Recipe

Directions:

1. Write the list of “ingredients” (the causes of the revolution). Note: You should have between 8-10 causes in your list of ingredients.
2. Next, rank your causes from most essential to least essential, with 1 being the most essential. This will be your ingredient list for the recipe. Then, explain how your top three ingredients compare with the bottom three. Ranking the causes will help you understand the relative significance of each cause.
3. Create “directions” (that is, preparation steps). This can be accomplished by answering the following question: How does each cause come together (or get “mixed”) to create revolution? Think about the verbs you might see in a recipe such as mix, blend, stir, chop, and sprinkle. There are lots of other examples—use your imagination! Your directions must include:
 - The event that triggered the revolution
 - Timeframe/periodization
 - Historical context
4. Don’t forget to cite your sources and be prepared to share your recipe with the class.