FAITH READERS
growing readers into leaders

Name: _____

Cause and effect

Practice

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Cau e a d e e g

The **cause** is *why* something happened.

The **effect** is *what* happened.

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Read about how light causes us to see a rainbow, and think about **cause** and **effect** as you read.

Light: What Causes a Rainbow

Light is a form of energy that we can see. Light moves in a wavy beam from a source to whatever object it meets. A light beam is wavy, but it only moves in one direction as it travels through the air. It cannot bend, turn corners, or go in a circle. It travels in one direction until it hits an object. Not even the strongest wind can cause a light beam to bend.

Light cannot pass through a solid object. However, light can pass through transparent objects, such as crystal and water. When a light beam hits a transparent object, it keeps going forward, but it slows down. If you look at the place where an object is partly in and partly out of water, it looks like the object bends at the place where it enters the water. This is called “refraction.”

Sometimes a beam of light from the sun passes through a cloud made up of tiny droplets of water too small to fall as rain. Hitting the water droplets causes the light beam to slow down. If the light beam hits the droplets of just the right size at just the right angle, the light beam appears to split into layers. We see the color beams within the light beam one at a time, in layers. We see layers of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet. We see a rainbow!