

LITERATURE UPDATE

The Clever Magistrate

A farmer spills spoiled food outside a shop and it causes an argument with the shopkeeper. The magistrate resolves the argument, though not to everyone's liking.

The Constitution

This textbook article illustrates that even though the Constitution of the United States was written and adopted long ago, the most basic ideas still hold true.

Kids Take Action

Students learn that having an opinion and making your voice heard are important parts of being a citizen.

Fair Is Fair

Our class is reading about fairness and making your voice heard. *The Clever Magistrate* is a folk tale about what can happen when people ask someone else to judge what's fair. *The Constitution* tells how Americans came up with a plan for fairness to all. *Kids Take Action* shows that it's important to be informed and organized. We are also learning the following skills to help us become better readers and writers:

Unit 7 Skills Focus

- Vocabulary:** Use Word Origins
- Reading:** Determine Importance
- Literary Analysis:** Main Idea and Details; Cause and Effect
- Grammar:** Possessive Adjectives; Pronouns
- Writing:** Write a Cause-and-Effect Essay

ANALYZE CAUSE AND EFFECT

Work with a family member to analyze cause and effect in the news.

1. Read a news article or watch a television newscast. Identify the causes of an event in the article or report. Write the causes in the chart below. (For example, a car accident might have been caused by bad weather.)
2. Talk about the effects. Write the effects in the chart below. (For example, new road signs may have been put up to warn drivers about icy roads in the winter.)

Cause	Effect
→	
→	

3. Read what you wrote together.
4. Bring your chart to school and share it with your class.