

Montana

Montana Content Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy — current operative 2011 standards

LESSON

Following a Chain of Causes

Civil War Recipes

TEACHES

RI.4.5

Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

WHY THIS EARNS THE STANDARD

Deterministic Grade 4 mapping for frameworks with identical Grade 4 standard text.

The canonical lesson that follows is unchanged. This cover is an additive curriculum-placement layer.

TumbleTA | Tumbleweed Press Inc. | Corrected build 2026-09-09

TUMBLETA | GRADE 4 ELA | STANDALONE SKILL LESSON

Following a Chain of Causes

Civil War Recipes

20 minutes

OBJECTIVE

Separate an effect from multiple causes and explain how linking language builds a causal chain.

STUDENT PRODUCT

A cause chain with at least three causes leading to one stated effect.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How does the author explain why supplies ran short?

TEXT FOCUS

An informational explanation in which several conditions contribute to scarcity.

LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Name the effect | 3 min Write the shortage or condition being explained.

2. Find causes | 5 min Collect at least three reasons the author gives.
3. Order if needed | 4 min Decide whether the causes occur in sequence or work together.
4. Build the chain | 6 min Use because, so, therefore, or as a result to connect the ideas.
5. Check | 2 min Do not turn an effect into a cause.

TEACHER KEY / EXPECTED THINKING

The author builds scarcity as the result of several connected pressures rather than a single cause, and linking language shows how each reason contributes.

LOOK FOR

- Identifies the stated effect.
- Uses multiple accurate causes.
- Explains how the causes connect to the effect.

TumbleTA | Grade 4 ELA | Canonical standalone skill lesson