

CHAIN OF EVENTS

People have often thought about the impact of one tiny event on an entire chain of events. Sometimes the results can be surprising.

1. With a partner, read the following poem and discuss what it means. If you have any difficulty, invite other pairs of students to share their ideas.

*For want of a nail, the shoe was lost;
For want of a shoe, the horse was lost;
For want of a horse, the rider was lost;
For want of the rider, the battle was lost;
For want of the battle, the kingdom was lost.
And all from the want of a horseshoe nail.*

2. Relate the ideas in the poem to the world around you and to the ways that living and non-living things depend on each other.
3. Think about your "wants" — the basic things that you, as a living creature, must have in order to live. List the "wants" that are essential for your survival.
4. Make up your own chain of events starting with one small event. Include at least eight events in your chain. For example, you could start with the following event: there was no milk left when you went to have breakfast this morning, so...
5. Write a poem, using the format shown, about how different kinds of living and non-living things depend upon one another.