A SOUND OF THUNDER by Ray Bradbury

Instructions: Complete each of these activities, using only this sheet of paper.

Cause and Effect

In many well-written plots, the author will show a close relationship between the events in the story. Often, one action will cause another. Using the graphic organizer on the back of this paper, fill out the chain of events that shows which actions caused specific events in the story.

The Significance of Cause and Effect

Cause and effect can be just another plot device, but it can also have deeper meaning in the story. Find a passage showing that causes and effects are important to the story’s message. Below, write a paragraph that follows this format: Bradbury is showing that __________________ can cause ___________________________. In the following passage, this message is communicated when ______ (set up the scene; what’s going on in the scene; who’s speaking; where is it) __________. “_________________________” (quote the passage that you found) ______. (pg#)

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In the short story, The Sound of Thunder, we learned that traveling through time can be dangerous. The characters from the story realize how they impact nature when one of the hunters steps on a butterfly. Through the destruction of one small element of the ecosystem, the future was changed. This is known as the “Butterfly Effect.” Humanity is causing changes in the ecosystem today. Fill in the blanks below to continue this fictional “Butterfly Effect.”

Today: There is an oil spill off the coast of California.

Tomorrow:
1. Fish are poisoned.
2. People must buy expensive fish from the east coast.
3. People can no longer afford fish so they eat more meat.
4. __________________________________________________________________________
5. __________________________________________________________________________