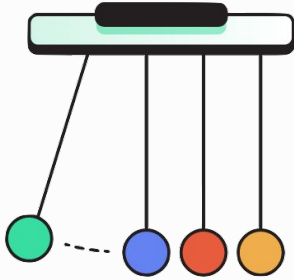


Formative Assessment:

Causation



Thinking historically means considering why certain things happened and what effects occurred because of an event, development, or process. It also means recognizing that there are multiple causes of and multiple effects from any event, development, or process.

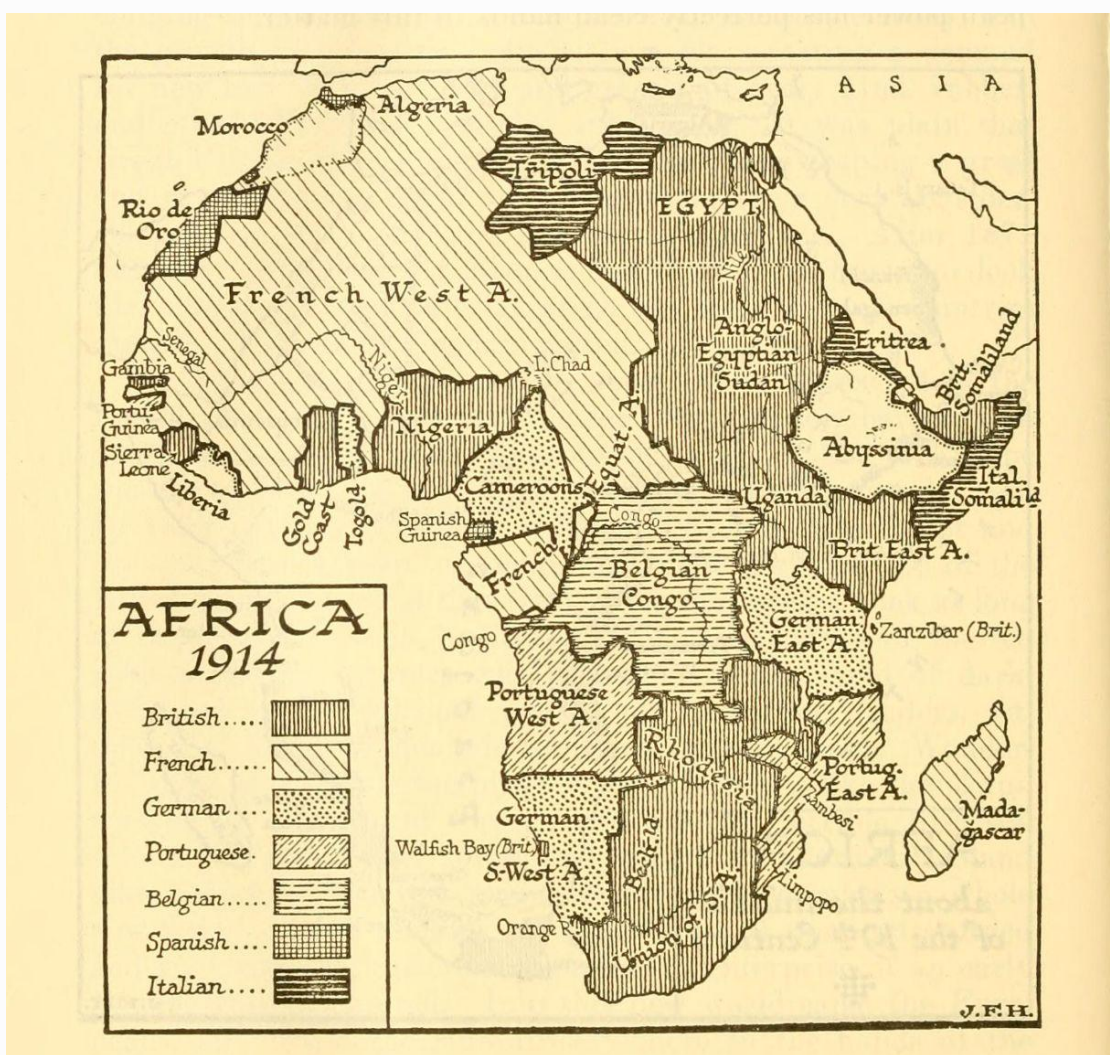
Directions: Read the following historical context and primary source. Then, answer the questions on causation that follow. This question is Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC). The two best answers are 2 points, the next-best answer is 1 point, and the incorrect answer is 0 points.

Formative Assessment: Causation

Historical Context:

In the late 19th century, European nations rapidly expanded their control over Africa in a period historians call the Scramble for Africa. Driven by the Industrial Revolution, European powers sought new sources of raw materials and new markets to sell their goods. Many Europeans also justified colonization through the belief that they had a duty to "civilize" African peoples. In 1884-85, European powers met at the Berlin Conference to formally divide Africa among themselves, doing so without the input of a single African nation. By 1914, nearly the entire continent had been claimed by European nations. Two notable exceptions were Ethiopia, which successfully resisted Italian invasion at the Battle of Adwa in 1896, and Liberia, which had been founded by freed American slaves in 1847 and maintained a protected relationship with the United States.

Source: "Africa 1914," a map featured in: H.G. Wells, *The Outline of History: Being a Plain History of Life and Mankind*, 1921.



Formative Assessment: Causation

- Using both the historical context and the map, select the **two statements** that best explain the causes of the pattern of European colonization visible in the 1914 map of Africa.
 - European powers justified colonization through a belief in their racial and religious superiority, strengthening their resolve to colonize Africa.
 - The Berlin Conference of 1884-85 allowed European powers to formally divide Africa among themselves without African input.
 - The Berlin Conference gave African nations a voice in determining their own political borders, resulting in the colonial boundaries visible on the 1914 map.
 - European industrialization created a demand for raw materials and new markets, driving European powers to colonize as many African territories as they could.

2. Historians rank effects to establish which effects are more significant. Using both the historical context and primary source, explain why one of the statements you chose represents a more significant cause of the pattern of European colonization of Africa. Cite evidence.



Formative Assessment: Causation

- Using both the historical context and the map, select the **two statements** that best explain the causes of the pattern of European colonization visible in the 1914 map of Africa.
 - European powers justified colonization through a belief in their racial and religious superiority, strengthening their resolve to colonize Africa. **(1 point)**
 - The Berlin Conference of 1884-85 allowed European powers to formally divide Africa among themselves without African input. **(2 points)**
 - The Berlin Conference gave African nations a voice in determining their own political borders, resulting in the colonial boundaries visible on the 1914 map. **(0 points)**
 - European industrialization created a demand for raw materials and new markets, driving European powers to colonize as many African territories as they could. **(2 points)**

2. Historians rank effects to establish which effects are more significant. Using both the historical context and primary source, explain why one of the statements you chose represents a more significant cause of the pattern of European colonization of Africa. Cite evidence.

With properly cited evidence from the context paragraph and the map, students can successfully make the case that either Choice B or Choice D best explains the causes of European colonization visible on the 1914 map. Choice D identifies European industrialization as a direct economic cause that drove demand for African raw materials and markets, while Choice B identifies the Berlin Conference as the specific diplomatic event that produced the colonial boundaries on the map. Therefore, Choices B and D are worth 2 points. Choice A is a historically accurate statement about European colonization, but it reveals a justification for expansion rather than a direct cause of it and is therefore worth 1 point. Choice C, worth 0 points, directly contradicts the context paragraph, which clearly states that African nations had no voice at the Berlin Conference.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

Choice 1	2 points (Choice B or D)	1 point (Choice A)	0 points (Choice C)
Choice 2	2 points (Choice B or D)	1 point (Choice A)	0 points (Choice C)
			Subtotal: _____ / 4

2. Short Answer: More Significant Effect

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student identifies one choice as a more significant effect and cites clear evidence from both the historical context and primary source to justify their choice.	Student identifies one choice as more significant and cites clear evidence from one source to justify their answer. Both sources may be cited, but only one provides clear justification.	Student identifies one choice as more significant and may or may not cite evidence to justify their answer. If evidence is cited, it does not provide clear justification for their choice.	Students does not identify one choice as more significant. Student either misunderstood question or did not attempt to answer it.
			Subtotal: _____ / 3

Total: _____ / 7

