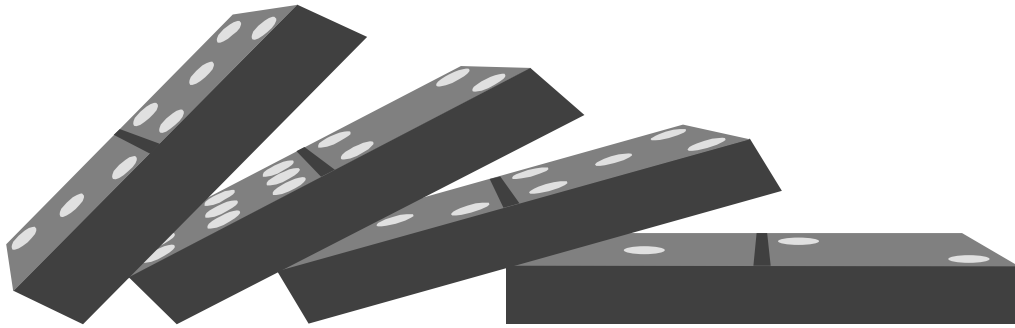


## What is Domino Causality?

If you have ever played a game of dominoes, then you are familiar with the patterns that they create. One domino causes the next domino or set of dominoes to fall down. Those dominoes, in turn, cause other dominoes to fall, and so on.

Dominoes are interesting to think about in terms of cause and effect. This is because when dominoes fall, the falling is both an effect (of the domino that fell into it) and a cause (of the fall of the next domino). This is true for all of the dominoes except the last one (which is just an effect.)



When we think about cause and effect, we often think that things are just causes or just effects. In simple linear causality, one thing directly makes another thing happen and the effects end there. But it is VERY common for effects to become causes of new events. For instance, imagine that school is let out early because of snow. This affects the students who get to go home early. That in turn affects parents who may need to leave work early to care for them. That may affect people who were planning to meet with the parents and so on. The effects branch out in many directions. We call this "domino causality."

Domino causality happens in science, too. For example, think about food webs. If the green plants die out, it indirectly affects the entire food web.

### Questions to Think About

1. How is Domino Causality different from Simple Linear (or Direct) Causality?
2. What examples of Domino Causality can you think of?