

SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Recognizing Effects*

Recognizing effects is one strategy that historians use to help understand how events are related. The passage below describes new weapons that were introduced during the Hundred Years' War. As you read, look for both the short-term and long-term effects of these new weapons. Then fill in the diagram below. (See Skillbuilder Handbook)

During the Hundred Years' War, new weapons caused a revolution both in warfare and in society. The weapon that gave England its early victories in the war was the longbow. Before battle, skilled English bowmen arranged themselves, side by side, along a wide arc. As the French attacked, the English bowmen drew their six-foot-longbows. The arrows were dangerous at a range of 300 yards and absolutely fatal within 100 yards. The result was disaster for the French. Horses were slain or wounded and threw off their riders. Dressed in heavy armor, French knights could not get up and were killed by English foot soldiers. The age of feudalism, based on the power of warriors on horseback, could not survive long.

The second weapon that battered down the feudal system was the cannon. The English fired small cannons at the Battle of Crecy, but these did little more than scare the horses. After 1400, however, European cannons grew huge and powerful. They could shoot stone balls 20 inches in diameter. In the last years of the Hundred Years' War, both sides used cannons to batter down the walls of each other's castles. Thus, the castle, like the knight's suit of shining armor, became an outdated relic. The Hundred Years' War had dealt a death blow to feudal warfare and the Age of Chivalry.

