

**Student Handout 2**  
**Earthquakes and Gas Wells Correlation vs. Causation**  
**Practice Activity**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For each of the following situations, decide whether there is a correlation or causation. Then identify any linking or lurking variables involved that affect correlation.

1. The older a car, the lower its resale value.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

2. The more points a student earns in class the higher their final grade.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

3. When students have a high number of cavities their math test scores will be lower.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

4. The distance you drive and the number of gallons of gas burned.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

5. The total amount of money spent on concessions at Phillies games and the number of wins the Phillies have.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

6. Around the world, higher numbers of Nintendo games per person relate to longer life expectancy.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

7. As ice cream sales increase, the rate of drowning deaths increases. Eating ice cream causes drowning.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

8. A study found a relationship between air-conditioning bills and lemonade sales for a sample of households.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

9. Fewer calories eaten results in more weight loss.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

10. A study was done and the results showed that people who drove more expensive cars were better golfers.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

11. Taller people tend to have more money than short people.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

12. The more minutes a basketball player stays in the game the more points he will make.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

13. The more firemen fighting a fire, the more damage there is going to be.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_

14. Students who use tutors have lower test scores than those students who do not use tutors.

Correlation \_\_\_\_\_ Causation \_\_\_\_\_ Linking/Lurking variable \_\_\_\_\_