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Bones are amazing things. Find out why while mastering AFFECT and EFFECT.

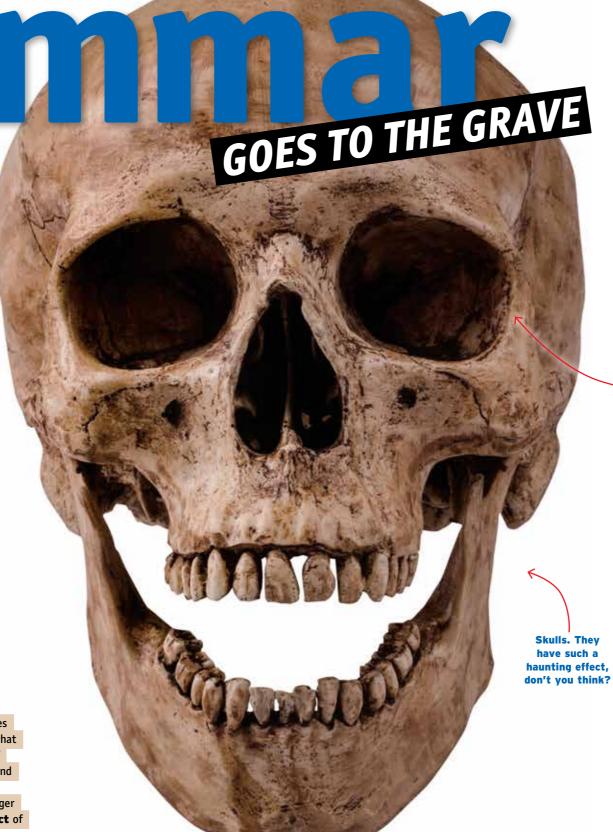
**DIRECTIONS:** Read the brown boxes below. Circle the correct word in each **affect/effect** pair.

### **Feast of Flesh**

After we die, our bones can last for hundreds or even thousands of years. The rest of our bodies? Not so much. The body starts to decompose minutes after death. As cells die, they release substances that eat away at the flesh. Maggots and other critters soon join the feast, until only bones remain. A number of factors affect/effect how quickly this happens. Bodies in cold places can take decades to decompose. Hot weather, on the other hand, has a fast-forward affect/effect: A body left out in the summer heat might be nothing but a skeleton in two weeks!

# Why Your Skull Is Special

Not only does your skull protect your brain, it also **affects/effects** the way you look and sound. Of the 28 bones in your skull, 14 are in your face. Their shapes and sizes are what make you look like you. Meanwhile, your sinuses (four sets of air-filled cavities at the front of your face) help make you sound like you. The voice echoes inside the sinuses, which vary in size from person to person. The affect/effect of having bigger sinuses is more room for the voice to echo. The affect/effect of more room to echo is a deeper voice.



## HINT

### **AFFECT or EFFECT?**

Affect is mostly used as a verb meaning "to influence." Effect is mostly used as a noun meaning "a result or an influence." It can also mean something that makes an impression. (There are other ways to use both words, but you will not encounter them in this activity.)

> Eye sockets never stop growing and changing shape. This doesn't affect your eyesight, though.

### **Digging for Bones**

Interested in bones? You might want to become a paleoanthropologist: a scientist who studies ancient human remains. These scientists have had a profound affect/effect on our understanding of what life was like for our ancestors. Paleoanthropologists can often figure out all sorts of things just by examining a skeleton age, appearance, cause of death, even diet. Fun fact: Some early humans ate tree bark! Nom nom.