

## Connection to Characteristics of Complex Systems Project

### Lesson Title:

*When a Butterfly Sneezes*, Story 2: The Old Lady Who Liked Cats

### Overview:

This story describes how a town eliminates cats to solve a problem but the action has multiple unintended consequences in the long term.

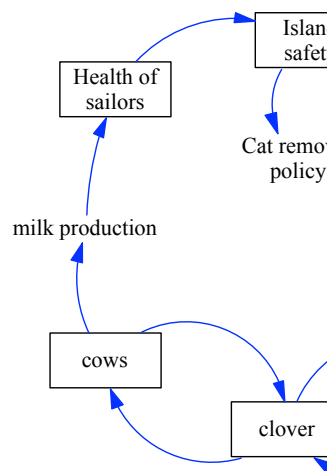
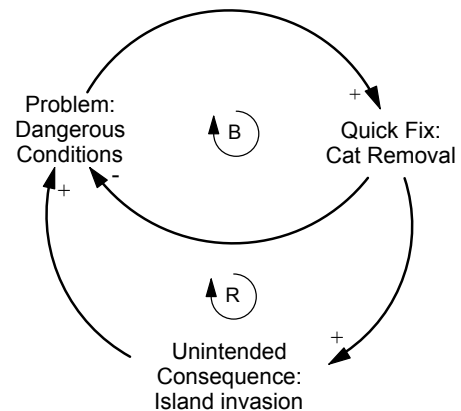
### Related Characteristic(s) of Complex Systems:

Conflicts arise between short-term and long-term goals.

### Ideas and Examples for Connecting to the Characteristic:

Extend this story and activities by looking at the situation through the lens of the fixes that fail archetype. In this case, the problem's quick fix solution actually makes the problem worse in the long term.

In a similar way, representing how the accumulations in the story impact one another over time shows how the policy of cat removal actually creates greater issues with safety than it solves.



### Resources:

Article: Parachuting Cats and Crushed Eggs, The Controversy Over the Use of DDT to Control Malaria by Patrick T. O'Shaughnessy, PhD

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2007.122523?view=long&pmid=18799776&>