



Name: _____

Date: _____

Words to know:

agent (*a person or thing with the power to act*), intrinsic (*belonging to a thing by its very nature*), novice (*someone who is new at something*)

One of the most important questions human beings ask is, “_____?”.

Following Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas thinks there are _____ to answer this question, traditionally called the _____.

The Four Causes answer the question WHY something is the way that it is:

The _____ is the agent or thing that brings something about.

The _____ is what the thing is made up of.

The _____ refers to the essence or nature of the thing.

The _____ refers to the ultimate end or reason for the thing.

Aquinas thinks that these four causes can be applied, by way of analogy to _____ in _____. And so they offer a very powerful way of explaining the _____ of things.

Comprehension question: Chose an object or thing in creation (other than a table). Describe the four causes of that thing.