

Latin America's Environmental Issues

Air pollution in Mexico City, the
destruction of the rain forest in Brazil, &
oil-related pollution in Venezuela

Environmental Issues in Latin America

	Air Pollution in Mexico City	Destruction of the Amazon Rain Forest in Brazil	Oil-related Pollution in Venezuela
Problem			
Effects			
Solution			
Illustration			

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Air Pollution in Mexico City

Mexico City

- Nearly 20 million people live in Mexico City.
 - It's the second most populated city in the world--Tokyo is first.
- The city's population & location contribute to its bad air pollution problem.
- It's considered to be the most polluted city in the world!







Causes of Air Pollution

- The huge population means there are a lot of cars (the emissions cause air pollution).
- Mexico City has a high elevation. There is less oxygen so fuels don't fully burn.
 - This makes a higher level of gas, which can harm eyes, lungs, & the heart.
- The Sierra Madre mountains surround city & trap in polluted air.





Solutions

- To reduce air pollution, the city promotes public transportation (buses, subway, bikes, etc.).
- The city is also testing buses that run on cleaner burning fuels.
- There are new restrictions on car use.
- The government also holds workshops to teach people about the environment.



Destruction of the Amazon Rain Forest

Amazon Rain Forest

- It's the largest rain forest left in the world.
- Most of the rain forest is in Brazil.
- It experiences a hot, humid, & rainy tropical climate.
- It's home to a huge variety of plants, trees, insects, birds, & animals.
- It produces 1/3 of the earth's oxygen!



Deforestation

- In the 1950s, the Brazilian government began building a major highway system.
 - This opened the rain forest to loggers.
- Also, Brazil's population has increased, and huge parts of the rain forest are being cut down to create farms.

















Results

- Plants & animals are losing their homes; many are endangered, and some are becoming extinct.
- The loss of trees increases carbon dioxide, a gas that contributes to global warming.

Solutions

- The government is working to fix the deforestation problem by passing laws on cutting down too many trees.
- What else do you think can be done?



Oil Pollution in Venezuela

Venezuela

- It's one of the world's leading producers of oil.
 - It has been producing oil for about 100 years.
- Oil production has boosted the economy.
 - It's the main source of income for many people.
- Oil production results in toxic wastes, air pollution, & oil spills.

Problems

- Venezuela's coast has become polluted with oil.
 - Oil spills have damaged the environment.
- It also hurts the ability of fishermen to earn a living.





Problems

- Venezuela leads South America in the production of carbon dioxide, which is a by-product of burning fossil fuels like natural gas & oil.
 - This can cause breathing problems for children & elderly.
 - It also contributes to global warming.

Problems

- Oil businesses have damaged Lake Maracaibo (largest lake in South America).
- Large amounts of oil have been removed from the area so the land is changing.
 - The eastern shore of the lake is dropping about three inches a year.
 - The government is having to take precautions to keep water from flooding into nearby towns.









Dexter Phillip / Trinidad Express

Problems

- Money from selling oil is the country's main source of income.
- Venezuelans are motivated to keep producing, selling, and burning oil--and polluting—because it boosts their economy.

Solutions

- People are becoming aware that the cost in the long term may be too great.
- Groups are calling for renewable energy sources and the clean-up and prevention of pollution.
- What else do you think can be done?

Bumper Sticker

Your Task:

Create a bumper sticker with a short statement or message convincing others who read it to solve one of these environmental issues.

It **MUST** have:

1. Thoughtful message or statement describing your choice of which environmental issue in Latin America to solve.
2. Colorful visual
3. Underneath your creation, in a well-developed paragraph, describe the environmental issue and your ideas for how it can be solved.

Environmental Issues Superhero Project

Directions: Use your Environmental Concerns chart (and your imagination) to create a poster about how your superhero cleans up the environmental problem. Be creative! Yes, it can be silly, as long as it works! ☺

Part One (Title): (10 Points)

- Superhero's Name & Your Name
- Environmental Concern
- Picture



Part Two: (30 Points)

- One paragraph description of the Environmental Concern (what's the problem, where it is happening, how it is affecting land/people, etc.)
- Picture

Part Three: (30 Points)

- One paragraph description of the superhero (what's his/her superpower, what can he/she do that other people can't, what does he/she look like, etc.)
- Picture

Part Four: (30 Points)

- One paragraph description of how the superhero solves the environmental problem
- Picture

TOTAL: 100 Points

(Should you write in complete sentences with CAPITAL LETTERS and PUNCTUATION? YES! ☺)

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Environmental Superhero

Pre-Write

Directions: Use your Environmental Concerns notes (and your imagination) to complete the graphic organizer below. You must show me this BEFORE you begin your final copy.

Superhero Description	Super Power Description
Environmental Concern Description	How is the superhero going to solve the problem?

Teachers

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