

Essential Question: How have environmental issues affected Latin America?

Standard:

SS6G2a. Explain the major environmental concerns of Latin America regarding issues of air pollution in Mexico City, Mexico, the destruction of the rain forest in Brazil, and oil-related pollution in Venezuela.

Air Pollution in Mexico City

Causes of Pollution in Mexico City

- **Overcrowding**
- **Industrialization**
- **Vehicle emissions
(releases)**
- **Location of Mexico City**

Overcrowding in Mexico City



Industrialization in Mexico City



Vehicle Emissions in Mexico City



Location of Mexico City

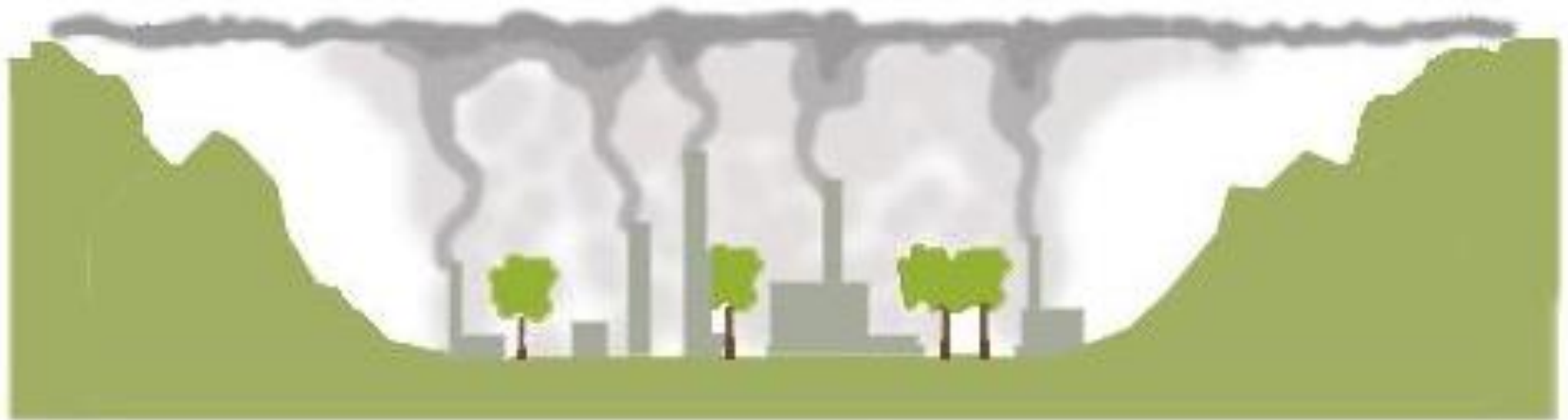


Based on what you've learned about Mexico's physical features, how does its location matter?

Location of Mexico City



Mexico City lies at the base of two mountain ranges which basically traps the air pollution



VALLEY OF MEXICO

An aerial photograph of Mexico City, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings and a prominent mountain range in the background. The sky is hazy, suggesting air pollution. The text "Air Pollution in Mexico City" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Air Pollution in Mexico City

Air Pollution in Mexico City



Air Pollution in Mexico City



Effects of Pollution in Mexico City

- **Damage to vegetation (plants)**
- **Harm to the atmosphere**
- **Harm to human beings**
- **Pollution causes Acid Rain**

Video on Air Pollution in Mexico [select one]

[Mexico City Air Pollution](#) [6:10]

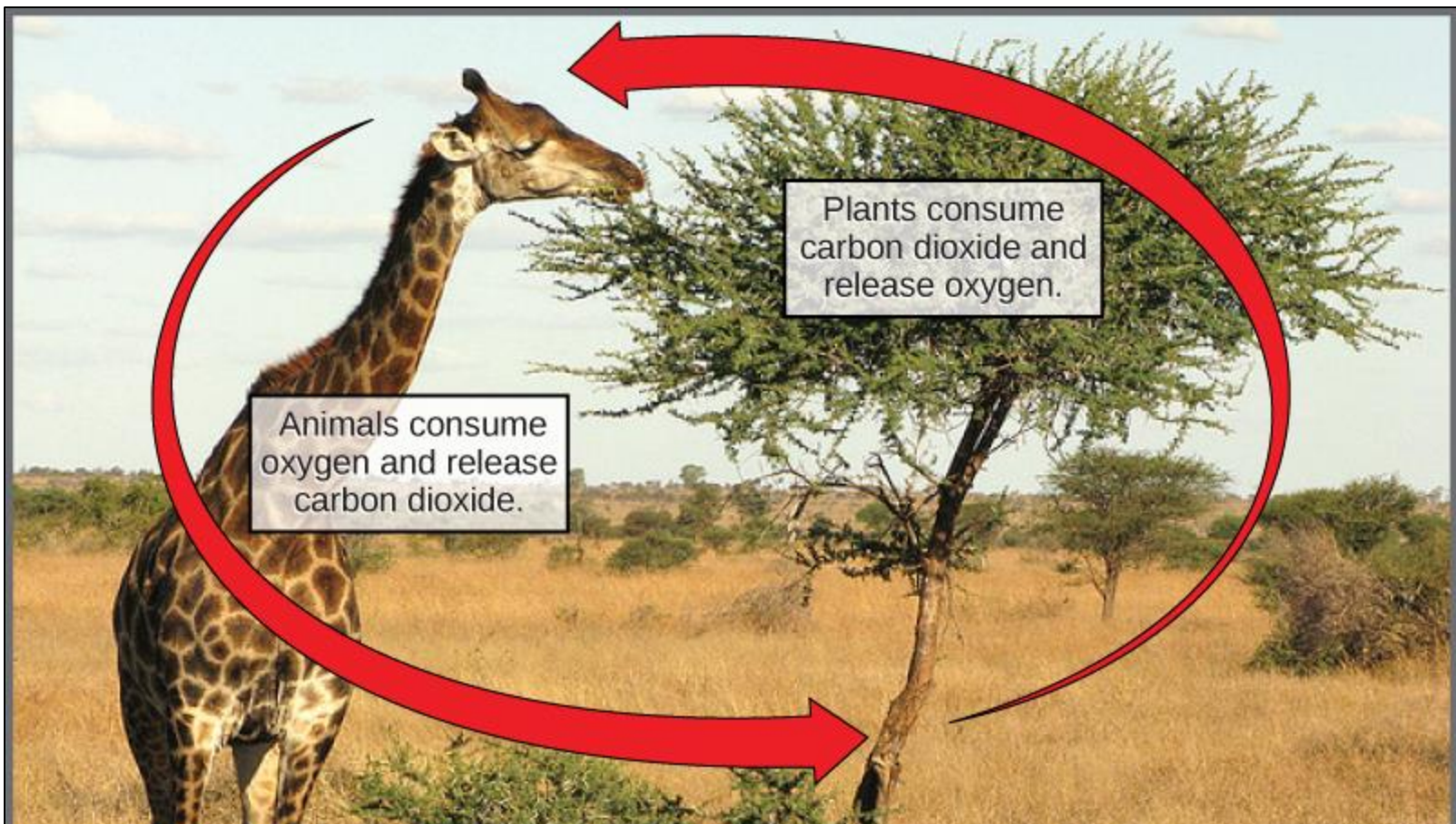
[Air Pollution in Mexico City
Documentary](#) [10:57]

Destruction of the Rainforest in Brazil

[Time Lapse Devastating Deforestation](#)

Importance of Rainforests

- Rainforests are known as the “lungs of the earth”.
Why?
- Rainforests help convert carbon dioxide into oxygen



Tropical Rainforests have very dense (thick) vegetation; therefore, they consume a lot of carbon dioxide and give off a lot of oxygen.

Importance of Rainforests

- **Rainforests are the home to the largest variety of plant and animal species on the planet**



Diversity of Living Things in the Rainforest

Causes of the Destruction of the Rainforest in Brazil

- **Road building**
- **Farmers cutting down forests to plant crops**
- **Cattle ranching**
- **Logging**
- **Mining**
- **New settlements**



Destruction of Rainforest in Brazil

Destruction of Rainforest in Brazil



Destruction of Rainforest in Brazil



Destruction of Rainforest in Brazil



Effects of the Destruction of the Rainforest in Brazil

- **Causes a loss of habitat for species**
- **Can cause climate change (more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere)**
- **Causes less clean air for humans**

Effects of the Destruction of the Rainforest in Brazil

- **Causes more soil erosion (trees help keep soil from eroding)**
- **Causes soil depletion (rainforests have rich soil but when cut down the richness of the soil is reduced)**

Oil-related Pollution in Venezuela

Oil-related Pollution in Venezuela

- **Oil is an important natural resource in Venezuela accounting for 50% of the government's revenue (income)**
- **Occasional oil spills have killed fish, damaging the environment and fishing industry**

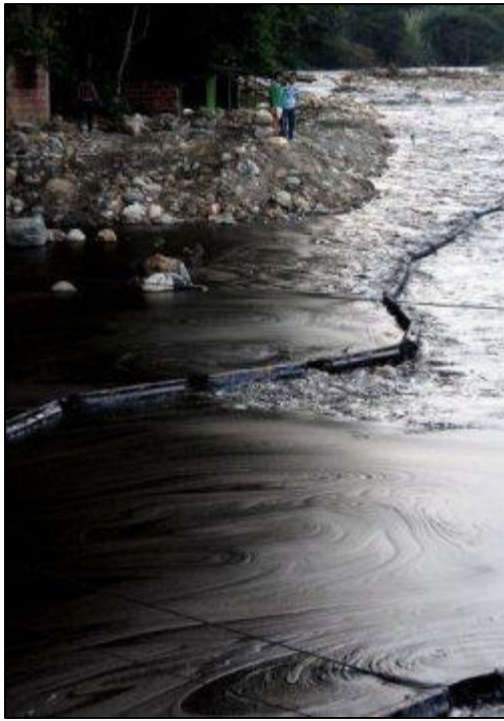
Oil-related Pollution in Venezuela

- **Oil spills have also shut down tourist resorts**
- **Contaminated oil pits, which collect waste from oil wells, can leak into Venezuela's water sources**

Oil Spill in Venezuela



Oil-related Pollution in Venezuela



Oil-related Pollution in Venezuela



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CXqRLUBt5c>

Summarizer

Environmental Issues in Latin America Summarizer

Name _____

Explain the major environmental concerns of Latin America for the following countries [include causes, effects, and possible solutions]:

1. Mexico City, Mexico _____

2. Brazil _____

3. Venezuela _____

