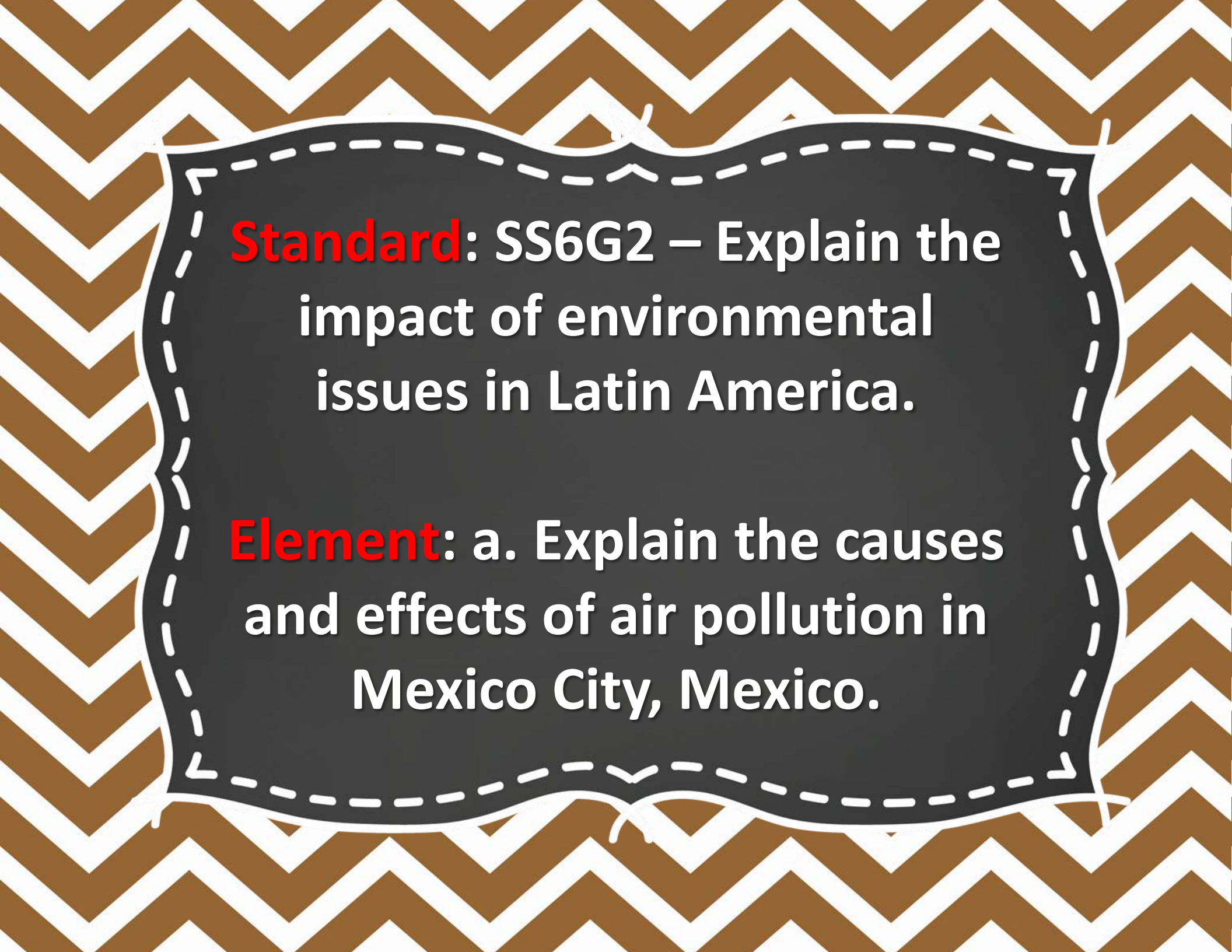




The background of the slide is a collage of four photographs. The top-left image shows a deforested landscape with many tree stumps under a cloudy sky. The top-right image shows a logging operation in a forest with large logs and a worker. The bottom-left image shows a lush, green tropical forest with a body of water reflecting the trees. The bottom-right image shows a blue car driving on a road, kicking up a large cloud of dust.

LATIN AMERICA ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Standard: SS6G2 – Explain the impact of environmental issues in Latin America.

Element: a. Explain the causes and effects of air pollution in Mexico City, Mexico.

Mexico Environmental Issue

Mexico City, capital of Mexico is located on the site of the former Aztec capital of **Tenochtitlan**.

Mexico City has more than **21** million people. That is even more than New York City!

Mexico City is one of the biggest **cities** in the world.

Mexico City has more than 50,000 industries that operate within the city limits.

Because of the high amount of jobs within the city, many Mexicans have **migrated** to live in the city.

Mexico Environmental Issue

The high amount of industry and people living in one place makes Mexico City one of the most **polluted** cities on Earth.

Mexico's City's pollution is caused by emissions from **factories** and **automobiles** that build up over the city.

To make things worse, Mexico City is located in the valley of an **extinct** volcano.

The mountains surrounding Mexico City trap the pollutants causing a brown haze called **smog**.

Mexico Environmental Issue

The **high** elevation means that the air is thin, and the pollution gets trapped in the valley.

The intense **sunlight** helps to push smog even higher.

Smog is a combination of smoke and thick fog.



Mexico Environmental Issue



Mexico Environmental Issue

Mexico City has thousands of factories and over 3 million cars.

Aging **cars** and **factories** send **pollution** (**carbon dioxide**, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide) into the air much more than newer more efficient cars and factories.



Today's cars emit 75 to 90 percent less pollution per mile driven than cars made in 1970 did.

Mexico Environmental Issue

Mexico's **government** is has put measures in place to help reduce the air pollution by **limiting** how often a citizen can drive their car.

Mexico's **government** has also created strict inspections on **emissions** of vehicles.

Over the last couple of years, government officials have even changed the kind of **fuel** cars and factories are required to use.



The new vehicles of today are much better for the environment and get better gas mileage.


Mexico Environmental Issue

To help lessen the amount of vehicles on the road, Mexico's government has placed **laws** on the **number** of **days** a week citizens can drive their cars.

Citizens are encouraged to use the mass **transit** systems, such as the city's **bus** and **train** networks.

This helps cut down on the amount of pollution that causes **smog**.

In Mexico Cars are banned for one day in the week depending on the number on their license plates. Violators are asked to pay anywhere between \$23 to \$69. For example Sundays, number plates ending with three and four were banned, Mondays five six, Tuesdays seven eight, so on and so forth.



Standard: SS6G2 – Explain the impact of environmental issues in Latin America.

Element: b. Explain the environmental issue of destruction of the rain forest in Brazil.

Brazil Environmental Issue

The major environmental issue in Brazil is the destruction of the **Amazon Rainforest**.

The Amazon Rainforest is the world's largest **forest**.

It is over **2** million square miles.

The Amazon Rainforest along contains **10%** of all plant and animal species on the planet!

The Amazon Rainforest is also known as the **lungs** of the planet.

Brazil Environmental Issue



Brazil Environmental Issue

Trees in the forest, act as an atmospheric **scrubber** for the planet by taking in **carbon dioxide** and converting it back into breathable, clean air.

The Amazon Rainforest takes in **pollution** that is bad, and gives back **oxygen** to the entire planet.



Brazil Environmental Issue

Unfortunately, the Amazon rainforest is being **deforested** at an overwhelming rate.

Deforestation is the destruction of a forested area, typically as a result of human activities.



Brazil Environmental Issue



Brazil Environmental Issue

Many Brazilians that live near the **rainforest** are also **farmers**.

With the ever expanding **population** of Brazil, more and more farm land is being cleared to help feed their citizens and give jobs (**farmers**) to those that are in need of employment.

The steady rise in lumber prices has also contributed to the demand of **exotic** woods found only in the Rainforest.

Many high value trees are cut down to make a huge **profit** on the black market by **Tree Poachers**.

Brazil Environmental Issue



Brazil Environmental Issue



Depending on the demand and tree size, some poachers can get up to 10,000 a tree.

Brazil Environmental Issue

Many Brazilians live in **poor** conditions.

One way for their families to have a legal income is to clear and sell trees the government allows to be cut and sold.

Trees are sold to make cheap **lumber**.

While this helps give many poor Brazilians an income, it destroys many **plants** and **animals** that have not even been discovered yet!

Brazil Environmental Issue

After the timber is harvested, majority of the land is used for cattle to graze.



Brazil Environmental Issue

Over **25%** of our prescription **medicine** comes from **10%** of the known rainforest plants.

Only an estimated **5-25%** of all plant species have been found.



Brazil Environmental Issue

Although Brazil's **government** has passed numerous laws restricting logging, Brazil does not have the **money** necessary to **enforce** the laws over such a large area.

Some experts estimate that the Amazon Rainforest is currently losing **150** acres per **minute**.



Because of Brazil's lack of funding to enforce its laws, illegal logging like the picture above is devastating to all endangered plants and animals.