



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES
IN LATIN AMERICA**

MEXICO CITY

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



UNITED STATES

GULF OF MEXICO

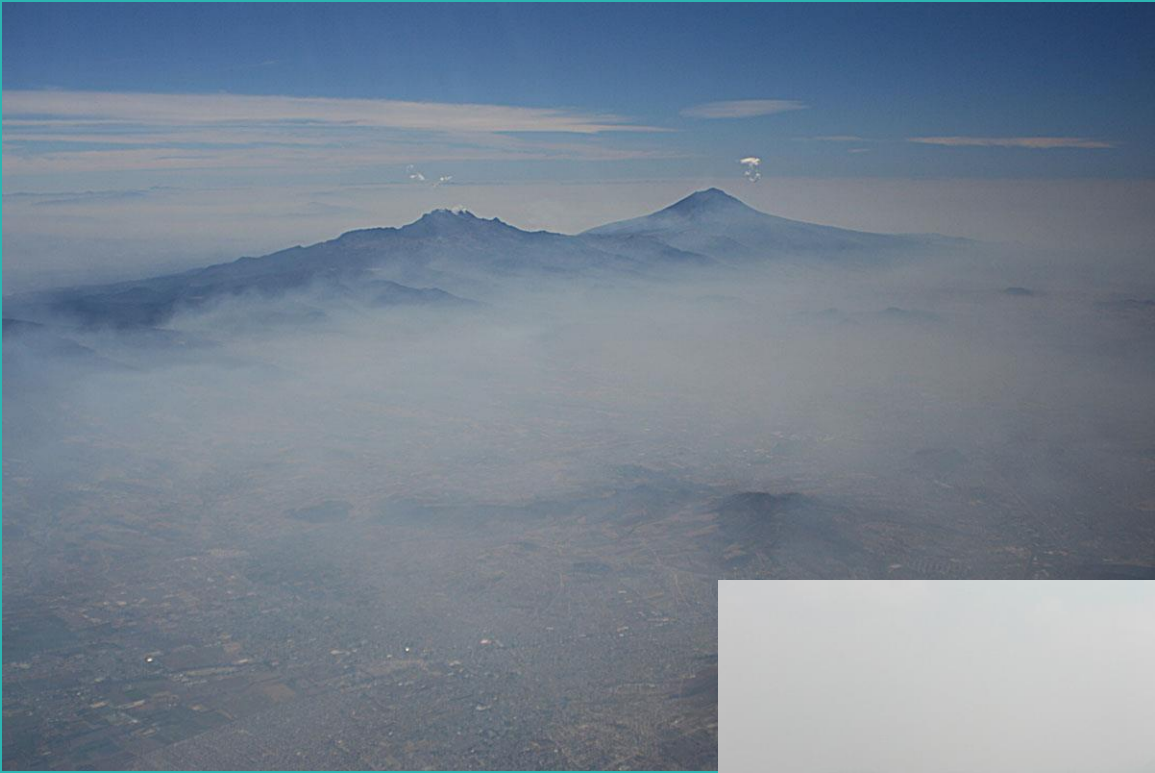
PACIFIC OCEAN

MEXICO

Mexico City

★ World Heritage Site

Label Mexico City on your Political Map of Latin America.



CAUSES OF AIR POLLUTION

- Large population = a lot of cars
- High elevation due to the Sierra Madre Mountains means less oxygen so bad gases do not burn off easily
- Sierra Madre Mountains trap in polluted air



EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION

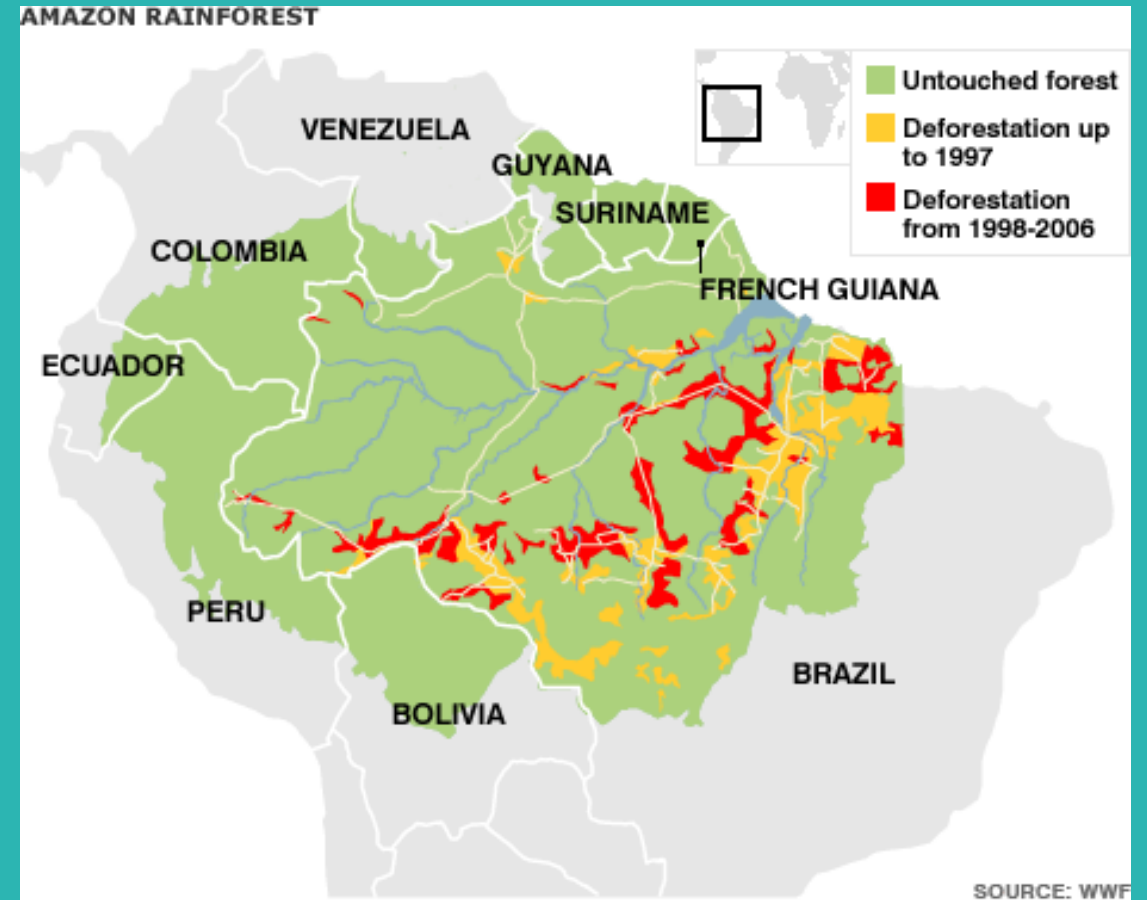
- High levels of gas can harm the eyes, lungs, and heart.
- Air Pollution creates acid rain.



SOLUTIONS

- Promote public transportation so there are less cars
- Test buses + cars for cleaner fuels
- Restrictions on car use.
- Educate people on how to protect the environment.

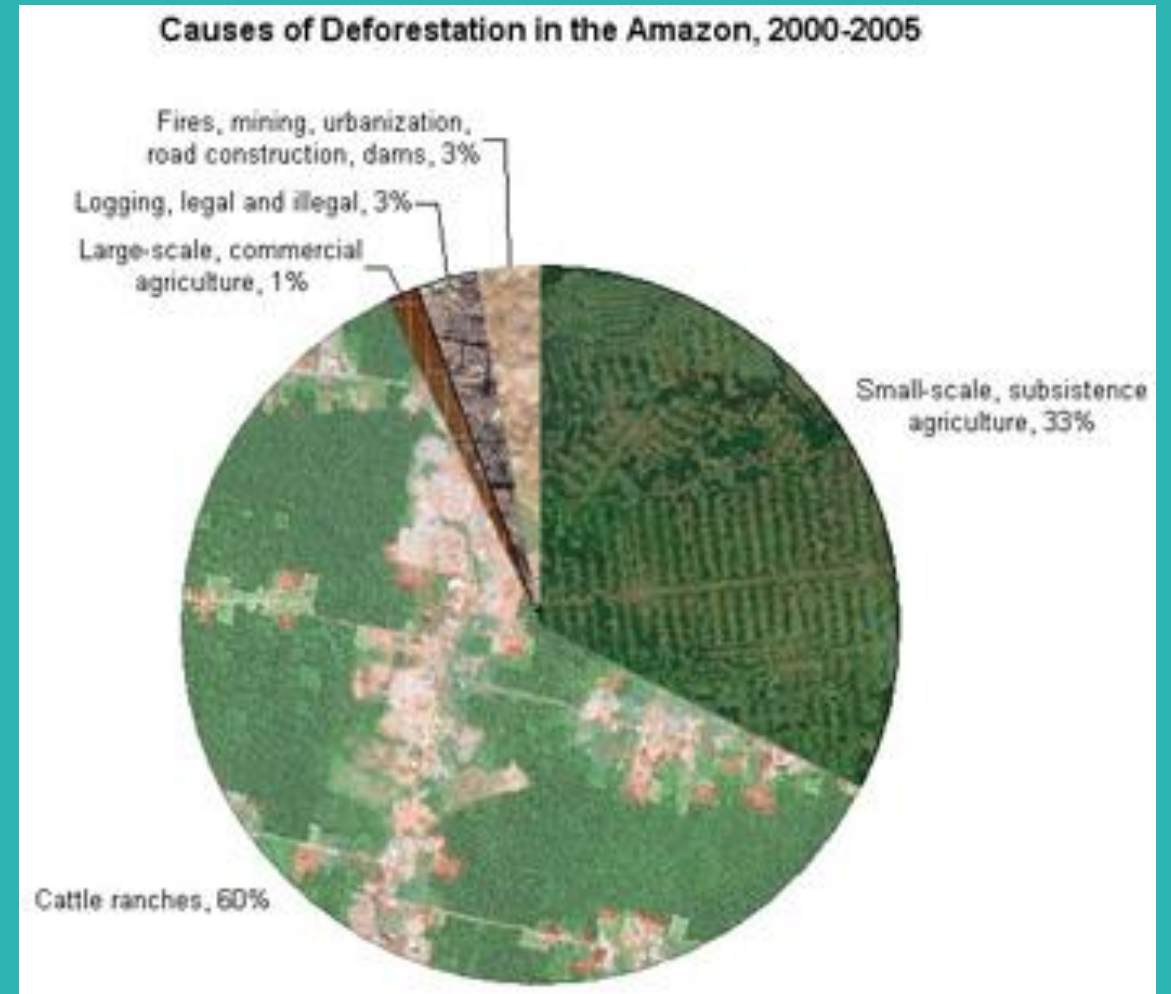
DESTRUCTION OF THE AMAZON RAINFOREST



Label + color the Amazon Rainforest on your Physical Map of Latin America

AMAZON RAINFOREST

- The Amazon Rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world.
- Majority of the rainforest is located in Brazil.
- Home to a large variety of plants, animals, trees, and insects.
- Produces 1/3 of the world's oxygen.



CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION

- Deforestation, also known as clear-cutting, is cutting down trees in a large area.
- In the 1950s, the Brazilian government began to build a major highway system which opened the forest to loggers.
- Brazil's population has increased and people are cutting down the forest to create farms.

EFFECTS OF DEFORESTATION

- Animals lose their habitat and many are becoming endangered and extinct.
- Increase in Carbon Dioxide which leads to global warming.



SOLUTIONS

- Laws on how many trees that are cut down.
- Environmental groups around the world are working with the Brazilian government to protect the rainforest.



OIL POLLUTION IN VENEZUELA



VENEZUELA'S OIL PRODUCTION

- Venezuela is the largest producer of oil in the Western Hemisphere.
- Oil production is a main source of income for a lot of Venezuela's citizens.
- Oil production results in toxic wastes, air pollution, and oil spills.

CAUSES OF OIL POLLUTION

- Oil businesses have damaged Lake Maracaibo by extracting the oil
- The coast is becoming polluted with oil because of Oil Spills



Label + color Lake Maracaibo on your Physical Map of Latin America.

EFFECTS OF OIL POLLUTION

- Fisherman have a hard time earning a living
- Venezuela leads South America in the production of carbon dioxide which can cause breathing problems and global warming
- The eastern shore of Lake Maracaibo is dropping three inches each year, which causes major flooding in parts of Venezuela.

SOLUTIONS

- People are becoming aware of the effects and how they will impact their environment
- Groups are calling for renewable energy sources and the clean-up and prevention of oil pollution/spills.