

Land, Water, Air

Trace how environmental issues affect people and places in Latin America.

SS6G2 "Explain the impact of environmental issues in Latin America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each environmental issue in the passage. Circle each impact it causes, then write a small number by each impact to match it with its issue.

Environmental Connections

- ① Across the Amazon Basin, people clear sections of rainforest for cattle ranches, farms, roads, and illegal mining. When many trees are removed, animals lose shelter and food. Trees also store carbon. Cutting and burning them releases carbon dioxide, which adds to warming. Forests move water into the air through their leaves, so widespread clearing can change rainfall patterns. Indigenous communities may lose access to hunting areas, plants, and rivers that support their daily lives as well.
- ② In the Dry Corridor of Central America, repeated droughts can damage crops such as maize and beans. Families who depend on these crops may harvest less food and earn less money at market. Some must buy food at higher prices or move to look for work. Drought also strains water supplies for homes and livestock. When dry soil is overused or trees are removed, it can erode more easily, making future farming harder for everyone.
- ③ Large cities, including Mexico City, can have poor air quality when vehicle exhaust and industrial emissions react in sunlight to form ozone near the ground. Breathing polluted air can irritate lungs and worsen asthma, especially for children and older adults. On some days, officials warn people to limit strenuous outdoor activity. Air pollution can also reduce visibility and harm plants. Public transit, cleaner vehicles, and stronger emissions rules can reduce this problem over time in busy neighborhoods.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Explain one impact of rainforest clearing in the Amazon Basin.

2 Why might a drought lead a family in the Dry Corridor to move?

3 How can removing trees make future farming in the Dry Corridor harder?

4 Describe one impact of city air pollution and name a group affected by it.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a different environmental issue in Latin America, such as plastic waste along a coast. Write exactly three sentences that explain the issue, two impacts it can cause, and one action that could reduce it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each environmental issue in the passage. Circle each impact it causes, then write a small number by each impact to match it with its issue. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Explain one impact of rainforest clearing in the Amazon Basin.	It can cause animals to lose shelter and food, release carbon dioxide that adds to warming, change rainfall patterns, or reduce Indigenous communities' access to hunting areas, plants, and rivers.
2	Why might a drought lead a family in the Dry Corridor to move?	Drought can damage crops, leaving families with less food and less money. Some may move to look for work.
3	How can removing trees make future farming in the Dry Corridor harder?	Without trees, dry soil can erode more easily, making future farming harder.
4	Describe one impact of city air pollution and name a group affected by it.	Polluted air can irritate lungs and worsen asthma, especially for children and older adults. It can also reduce visibility and harm plants.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Plastic waste along a Caribbean coast can enter the sea from streets and rivers. Sea turtles may swallow it, and fishers can lose income when beaches and waters are polluted. Better trash collection and less single-use plastic can protect the coast.

Accept any passage-based cause-and-effect explanation for the questions. For Your Turn, accept a realistic Latin American environmental issue with two clear impacts and one reasonable action to reduce it.