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Prep reading Cuenca

Ecuador is known for trade and transportation. Trades for goods as well as buying good from other neighboring countries or ones across the pond. Ecuador is known for producing the following agricultural crops such as bananas, coffee, cocoa, rice, potatoes, manioc (tapioca), plantains, sugarcane, cattle, sheep, pigs, beef, pork, dairy products, balsa wood, fish and shrimp. Ecuador's main industries are petroleum, food processing, textiles, wood products and chemicals. The US is known for buying oil from Ecuador. During the time of 911 we stopped buying from them and focused a lot of our attention towards the middle east to protect our country from the horrific attack we just encountered. This affected the country greatly because of their economy and their wealth. The one thing that I noticed reading through books, news articles, papers, journals etc. the health effects from drilling oil. Over time when you inhale the fumes or are around the potent smell for so long you start to have problems later down the road in life. The population continues to grow in Ecuador as well does oil drilling. When a mother who is pregnant is exposed to the crude oil as well as her unborn child will experience birth defects, changes in fetal development and decreased fetal survival if the crude oil chemicals cross the placenta it can have an impact on the embryo or fetal growth. This can happen when the cells are dividing and differentiating into specific tissues of the nervous system, circulatory and immune. The fetus is sensitive to any chemical exposure while in the womb since whatever the mother ingest so does the baby. In children the same thing can happen considering their bodies are still developing, you will start to notice changes if they are exposed to these toxins. In adults breathing the fumes of crude oil will cause chemical pneumonia, irritation of the nose, throat, and lungs, headache, dizziness, drowsiness, loss of coordination, fatigue, nausea, and labored breathing. Chronic exposure can result in irregular heartbeats, convulsions, coma and cancer. The impacts on lives from breathing the chemicals in are life changing and are causing more harm than good.

In the 1960’s the American Oil company Chevron also known as Texaco started extracting oil from the basin of the Amazon rainforest. Over the course of 26 years chevron extracted billion gallons of crude oil that caused a huge revenue for the company Texaco. Ecuador is a home to many species in regards to the Galapagos islands and the Amazon rainforest it is a small country off the coast of South America but also a home to many native indeginous groups. They live off the land they use the water from the rivers for fishing, bathing and cooking. This company has caused so much damage that these tribes are unable to do so anymore and when they do they are now getting sick and dying. We have to look at the measures that we need to take to protect the environment from this mass destruction that is taking place. Oil extraction begins when there is a well formed and pits are created for temporary oil storage or waste, the pits are lined with a tarp that acts as a resistant membrane that can withstand heavy weight, liquid and extreme temperatures where all of the toxins, chemicals and waste are stored in oil extraction. When oil has been tapped or found a geologist or mud logger will let the people know that they have hit oil. Once the oil has been extracted the sludge from the pit will be removed and taken to a disposable ground. The water that was inside of the pit that is now toxic is put back into the ground. The pit is refilled and restored to its natural state and this is the process that chevron follows and continues to do throughout the United States before they entered Ecuador. Texaco has not abided by the rules of how to properly disperse water back into the earth after drilling and they knew that by not properly dispersing the water back into the earth it would cause pollution. In Ecuador this company installed pipes throughout the indigenous peoples land as well as the most biodiverse rainforest in the world, home to many species and plants. These pipes lead to the rivers releasing toxins into the water causing the people of Ecuador to get sick and die. They wanted the process to move quicker so they did not follow protocol like they did in the United States. Chevron did not line their waste pits properly in Ecuador causing the toxins to seep back into the soil into the groundwater. This company is destroying lives and land for their greed. If this is done properly there might not be so many problems but considering they went and did what they pleased this company has committed the worst acts of environmental abuse in history.

In the 1960’s Texaco came to the North Eastern Ecuador to tap into one of the largest oil reserves in North America. Over 23 years, Texaco pumped out over 1.5 billion barrels of oil. When you are done drilling for oil and you are to leave the site you are to take the sludge from the pit that was created into barrels and dispose of it properly and then inject the water back into the earth. Texaco when they were done drilling in Ecuador they would abandon their pits filled with toxic waste and leave to go on to the next place. The pollution is leaking into the water wells of the people in Ecuador. The EPA stated that Chevron would have never gotten away with this in the United States so why is it happening here? The way that the Ecuadorian people look at the oil in the country is not how we look at in the western world. We look at oil as money signs and how much we can use oil for resources that we have in our country. Oil is looked at spiritual value to them, it has a purpose and they consider it the blood of their country. How they survive is based off the land and what the land provides for them. In my previous couple chapters I stated the health concerns with inhaling the crude oil fumes and how it affects adults, children and pregnant mothers this affects them even more because they aren't provided the resources that we have in the United States. We have the equipment and technology to make us better they do not. A Lot of their medicine comes from the earth. They have hospitals but nothing like what we have here. We have intense care, they would be considered basic care. These people are dying slowly and painfully due to this oil company. In Ecuador the Amazonian rain forest is home to 8 indeginous tribes. In order for this company to strive they told the indegenous people that they were doing good for the planet and what they were putting back into the earth was even better than what they were taking out. A court case broke out in Ecuador for the oil company drilling and causing environmental damage. They sued Chevron, Texaco for what they were doing in their country. U.S. Federal Court finds Ecuadorian judgment against Chevron a product of fraud and racketeering. They are trying to appeal against these allegations of environmental damage.