OCEAN POLLUTION

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Pollution in the ocean is a major problem that is affecting the ocean and the rest of the Earth, too. Pollution in the ocean directly affects ocean organisms and indirectly affects human health and resources. Oil spills, toxic wastes, and dumping of other harmful materials are all major sources of pollution in the ocean.

China is one of the most affected countries by this problem. All of China's lakes and rivers are polluted in some degree.
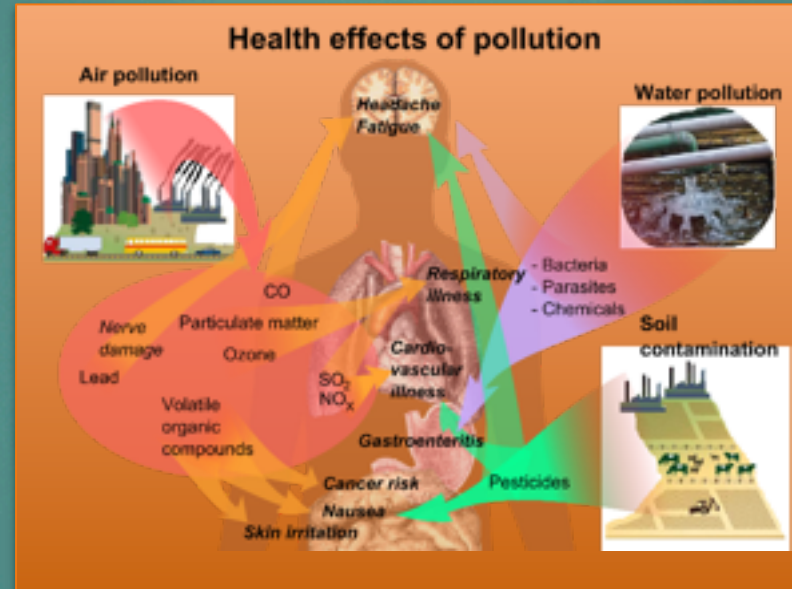
CAUSES

-Rain and rivers help carry garbage into oceans, which results in the growing number of seaweed.

-Garbage from local residents, hotels in coastal areas and ships pollutes sea waters.

-The residents living on ships produce some litter on a daily basis at harbors.

-About one third of the industrial waste water and more than 90% of household sewage in China is released into rivers and lakes without being treated.

-Factories fouling critical water sources are making goods consumed by people in the US and Europe.

-Laws on the books are widely ignored.

Health effects of pollution

CONSEQUENCES

-**320 million** people in China without access to clean drinking water.

-**40%** of China's surface water is considered polluted.

-**20%** of drinking water in urban areas is contaminated.

-**278** Chinese cities *do not have* sewage treatment facilities.

-**60,000** people die each year from diarrhea, bladder and stomach cancer and other diseases.

-**217 billion yuan** is the estimated cost of water pollution to China's economy every year.

-Water consumed by people in China contains dangerous levels of **arsenic**, **fluorine** and **sulfates**.

-**600 million** Chinese drink water contaminated with human or animal wastes.

-**20 million** people drink well water contaminated.

MORE INFO
http://factsanddetails.com/china.php?itemid=391

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4DtOhe2LfQ

http://chinasmog.wordpress.com/2012/05/08/chinas-pollution-facts/