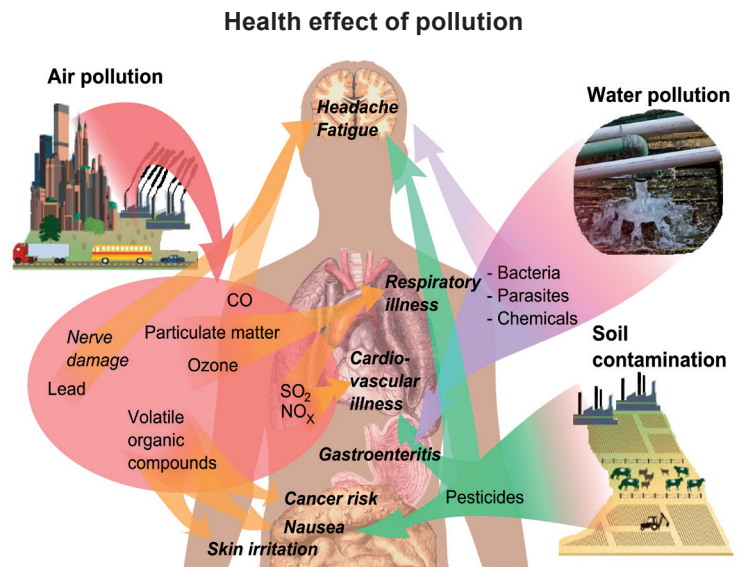


Health diseases due to pollution

The most serious result of every form of pollution is its harmful effect on human health. Adverse air quality can kill many organisms including humans. It can cause respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, throat inflammation, chest pain, and congestion. Water pollution causes approximately 14,000 deaths per day, mostly due to contamination of drinking water by untreated sewage in developing countries. Oil spills can cause skin irritations and rashes. Noise pollution induces hearing loss, high blood pressure, stress, and sleep disturbance. Lead and other heavy metals have been shown to cause neurological problems. Chemical and radioactive substances can cause cancer as well as birth defects. Pollution may have also disastrous effects on ecosystems. Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides can cause acid rain, the soil can become infertile and unsuitable for plants and this will affect the organisms in the food chain.



GLOSSARY



- lead: *piombo*
- nitrogen oxide: *monossido di azoto*
- rashes: *eruzioni cutanee*
- sewage: *liquami, scarichi*
- spill: *fuoriuscita*
- sulphur dioxide: *ossido di zolfo*.

1 Complete the table about the effects of pollution on human health.

Adverse air quality	1.	2.
	3.	4.
	5.	
Water pollution	1.	
Oil spills	1.	
	2.	
Noise pollution	1.	2.
	3.	4.
Lead and heavy metals	1.	
Chemical and radioactive substances	1.	
	2.	
Effects on ecosystems	1.	
	2.	
	3.	