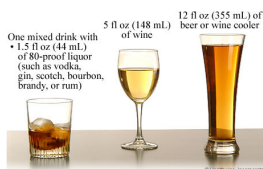


Teratogens

Teratogen: Environmental agents that harm the embryo or fetus.

Known teratogens include:



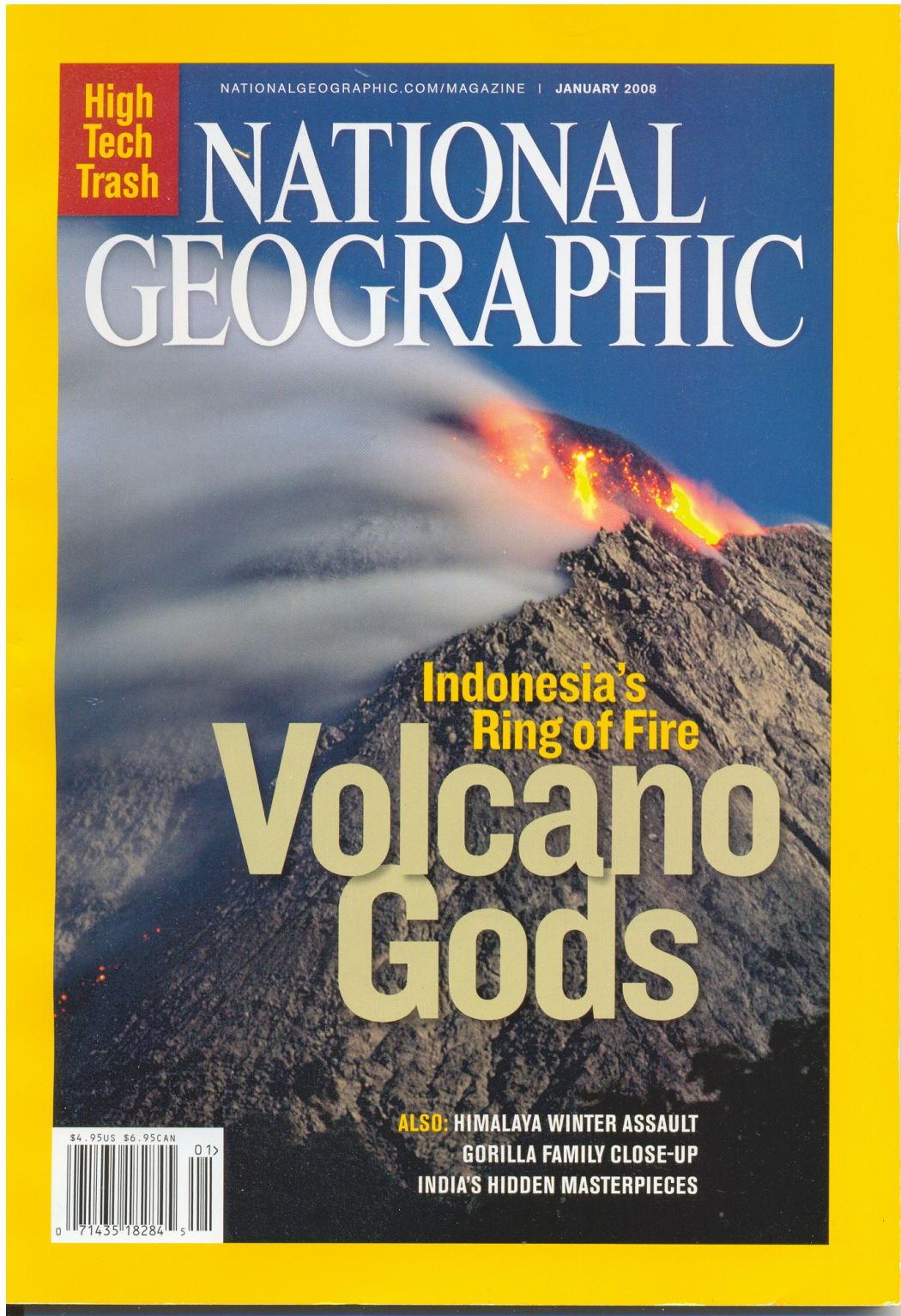
- Exposure to radiation
- Heavy metals such as lead and mercury
- Drugs taken by the mother, such as alcohol, cocaine, and heroin.
- Nicotine
- Toxic industrial chemicals, such as PCBs
- Diseases, such as rubella, syphilis, genital herpes, and AIDS

Common drugs such as aspirin have been associated with uterine bleeding and may have a connection with certain viral infections that can result in Reyes syndrome.

If we don't know the causes of development problems,

- We won't take the appropriate action
- We might take the wrong action that is not likely to be effective

The placenta prevents many (but not all) dangerous substances from reaching the fetus.

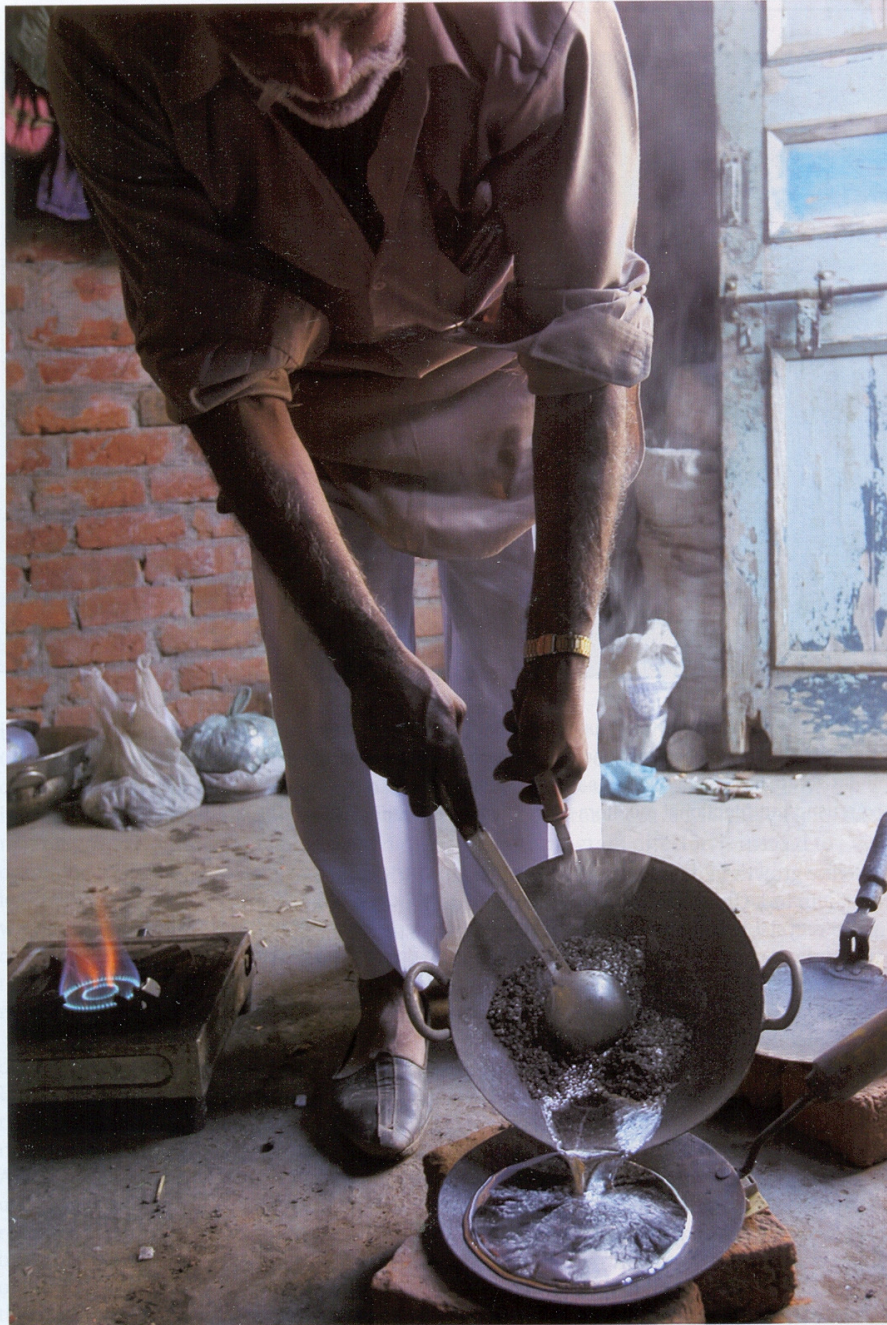


<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/01/high-tech-trash/essick-photography>



DUMPED A farmer in rural Taizhou, China, readies sweet potatoes for market beside circuit boards burned so metals could be extracted. The region has long been a major dump site for e-waste, but a crackdown by authorities has reduced illegal trade.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/01/high-tech-trash/essick-photography>



TOXIC MELT In a poor suburb of New Delhi, India, where informal e-waste processing is a common household business, a man pours molten lead smelted from circuit boards. His family uses the same pots for cooking—a potentially deadly practice.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/01/high-tech-trash/essick-photography>