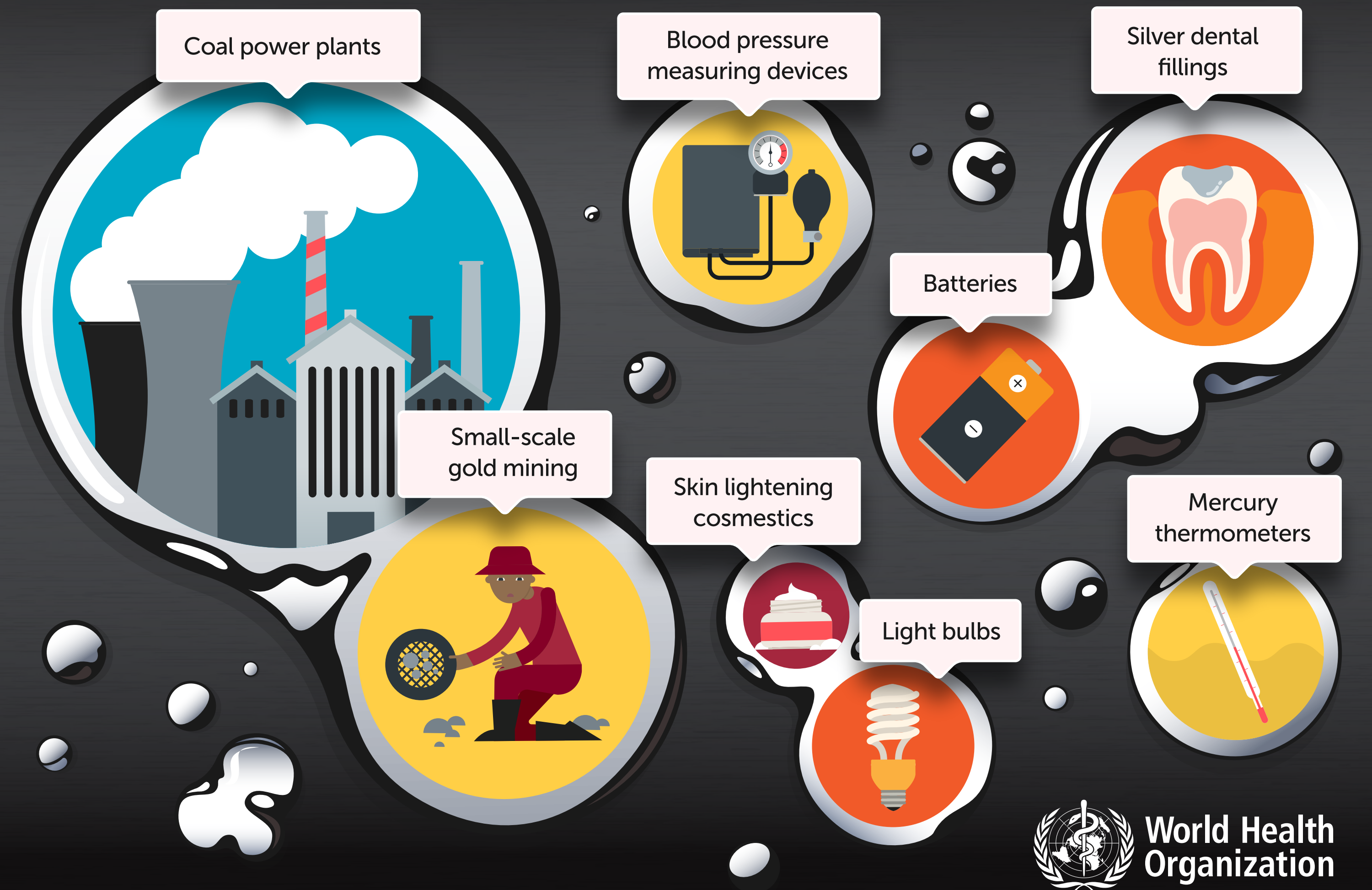


WHAT IS MERCURY?

Mercury is a naturally occurring metal. When released into the environment, it can be toxic.

How mercury gets into the environment:



MERCURY EXPOSURE IMPACTS HEALTH

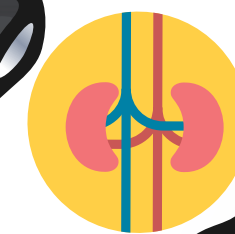
Mercury is used
in small-scale
gold mining...



This form of
mercury is toxic to the
brain and kidneys.



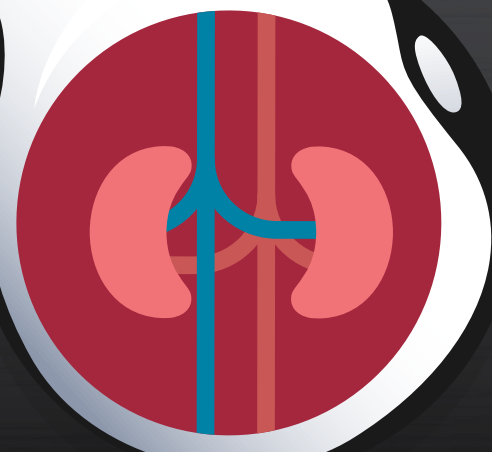
The same applies to
mercury fumes from
broken thermometers and
blood pressure devices.



Using certain skin
lightening soaps and
creams...



Is toxic to
the kidneys.



Eating contaminated
fish and shellfish...



Is toxic to the
brain and affects
brain development
in unborn babies
and young
children.



World Health
Organization

WHAT IS THE MINAMATA CONVENTION?

It is an international agreement that aims to protect people and the environment from mercury.

The health sector is working to:



1. Phase out thermometers and blood pressure devices that contain mercury
2. Promote oral health and reduce dental amalgam use
3. Implement strategies to protect small-scale gold miners and other vulnerable groups
4. Monitor mercury exposure and provide health advice

Everyone can contribute:



Dispose of mercury-containing products safely.



Choose mercury-free products when possible.



World Health Organization