

Meltdown at Chernobyl



What happened at Chernobyl?

- ◉ In April of 1986, the cooling system in the number 4 power reactor failed.
- ◉ The fuel rods were heated to over 4000 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ◉ This caused a massive meltdown which caused gases to build up.

BOOM!!!

- The gases building up eventually blew the roof off the building.
- A huge cloud of radiation is sent into the atmosphere.

How did the Soviet Union (Russia) handle this?

- The Soviet Union kept this accident secret for 2 whole days without telling anyone.
- Meanwhile, radioactive clouds spread over eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

What next?

- Sweden finds out about the radiation leak and tells the world.
- The Soviet Union finally tells everyone but downplays it.
- People in Europe are given iodine to try and prevent the radiation poison.

Agriculture effects

- Rain brings radiation to farms and drinking water.
- Livestock meat and milk is contaminated.
- Crops are ruined so grains and cereals are banned.
- Thousands of farmers are affected.

Ghost Town

- 135,000 people are cleared from villages around the Chernobyl accident.
- It is so contaminated that it will not be livable for 50 years.

Ticket Out the Door

- ① 1. Where did the nuclear fallout occur?
- ② 2. What caused the nuclear fallout?
- ③ 3. What were 2 results of the fallout?