Radiation is Everywhere!!
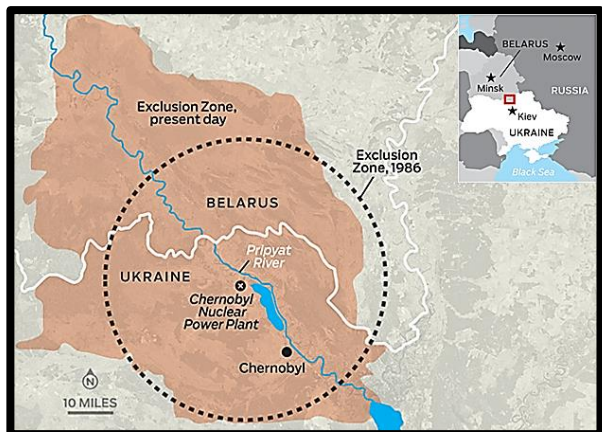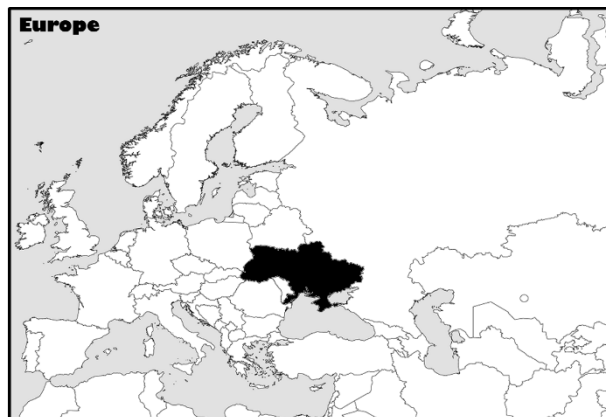# Nuclear Disaster in Ukraine!!

What Happened?

In April 1986, a nuclear reactor exploded at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, causing the worst nuclear disaster in history. At the time, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, which dissolved in 1991. Toxic radioactive material shot into the air and drifted over western parts of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Scandinavia. Fallout (radioactive particles falling to the ground contaminated about 100,000 acres, including the animals, crops, and forests on the land. About 135,000 people were evacuated and resettled in other areas. About 30 people died in the blast, and thousands more who cleaned up the site died later from radiation poisoning.

What Were the Effects from the Blast?

The main environmental effects of the disaster have been contaminated farmland, surface water, and groundwater. Today, the area around the Chernobyl nuclear plant is considered one of the most polluted places on Earth. Although the reactor was buried in a concrete casing designed to absorb radiation, experts fear leakage into the nearby groundwater, and are working to re-contain the site. No one knows exactly how many illnesses and cancers have been caused by this disaster, but about 4,000children in the fallout zone have been diagnosed with cancer in recent years. Ukraine and Belarus have spent huge amounts of money on cleanup efforts.