The Chernobyl Disaster

The Chernobyl disaster (also referred to as Chernobyl or the Chernobyl accident) was a catastrophic nuclear accident that occurred on 26 April 1986 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine (then officially the Ukrainian SSR), which was under the direct jurisdiction of the central authorities of the Soviet Union. An explosion and fire released large quantities of radioactive particles into the atmosphere, which spread over much of the western USSR and Europe.

The Chernobyl disaster was the worst nuclear power plant accident in history in terms of cost and casualties. It is one of only two classified as a level 7 event (the maximum classification) on the International Nuclear Event Scale, the other being the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in 2011. The battle to contain the contamination and avert a greater catastrophe ultimately involved over 500,000 workers and cost an estimated 18 billion rubles. During the accident itself, 31 people died, and long-term effects such as cancers are still being investigated.

1. What type of disaster was the Chernobyl disaster?

○ an explosion ○ a fire ○ A nuclear accident

2. Where did the accident occur?

○ Russia ○ Fakushima ○ Chernobyl

3. What is closest in meaning to 'jurisdiction' in paragraph one? ○ occupation ○ control ○ courts

4. How were radioactive particles released into the atmosphere?

○ By an explosion and fire ○ by being exposed to air ○ in small quantities

5. How many people lost their lives during the accident itself?

○ 1986 ○ 500000 ○ 31

6. How many nuclear power plant accidents have been classified at a level 7?

○ 2 ○ 7 ○ 1

Read the text again and find the words and phrases:

Nanašati se na, omenjati		Razvrščen (klasificiran)	
Pojaviti se-		Lestvica	
Jedrska elektrarna-		Bitka	
Uradno-		Omejiti, zadržati	
Centralne oblasti		Preprečiti	
Eksplozija		Vključevati	
Izpustiti		Ocenjeno	
Radioaktivni delci		Dolgoročni učinki	
Ozračje		Rak	
Razširiti se		preiskovati	
Zahodni			
Kar se tiče stroškov in žrtev			

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