**The Chernobyl Disaster .**

Chernobyl is a city in Ukraine near the border with Belarus. Not far from the city, approximately in 18 kilometers northwest from it there is another small Ukrainian town, called Pripyat. The main electric power and nuclear Chernobyl stations were once situated there, before the huge disaster. At night of April 26 in 1986 one of the reactors of the power plant suffered a catastrophic steam explosion that caused not only fire, but a series of additional explosions, followed nuclear meltdown. This explosion is considered to be the worst nuclear accident in the whole history of nuclear power. It immediately attracted the world media attention and affected people’s consciousness in all parts of our planet. The Chernobyl disaster took away lives of thousands of people who have lived and worked there. This explosion produced a plume of radioactive debris that affected different parts of the world, including Soviet Union, some parts of Europe, and even eastern USA. The largest areas of contamination were in Ukraine, Belarus and western Russia, and more than 300,000 people had to be evacuated and resettled. This catastrophe forced people to think over nuclear problems and possible consequences. Public awareness of these risks increased significantly. Even now it’s difficult to count the deaths caused by the Chernobyl disaster, as most of the deaths were the result of cancer, which people suffered much later after the radioactive explosion. The Chernobyl disaster is not the only result of human anti-natural activity but certainly one of the worst catastrophes in the world.