European Environmental Problems Graphic Organizer

Nuclear Accident at Chernobyl

In April 1986 a nuclear reactor exploded at the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant in Ukraine, causing the worst nuclear disaster in history. At the time Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. Toxic radioactive material shot into the air and drifted over a parts of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Scandinavia. Fall out (radioactive material falling to the ground) contaminated about 100,000 acres including the crops, animals and trees. About 30 people died from the blast and thousands more who cleaned up died of radiation poisoning

Acid Rain in Germany

Acid rain is rain polluted by gases released into the air by burning fossil fuels such as coal or oil. During last half of 1900s East Germany burned huge amounts of brown coal. Acid rain has damaged or killed more than ½ of the trees in Germany’s forest. It pollutes the rivers and lakes killing fish and plants. It eats away at brick and stone buildings

Germany has put strict laws to reduce acid rain. Factories are fined if they don’t’ lower the amount of pollution People also need to put converters on their cars. Germany is also changing fuels



Air Pollution in the United Kingdom

Caused mainly from emissions from factories or from homes burning coal for heat. Today cars are main contributer. The pollution mixed with fog which caused 4000 deaths in the Great London Smog of 1952

The government has tightened emission standards for cars, pushed cleaner fuels, and encouraged public transportation.