

Developing a Hypothesis

The nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl, even more than my launch of Perestroika (*reforms*), was perhaps the real cause of the collapse of the Soviet Union five years later. Indeed, the Chernobyl catastrophe was an historic turning point: there was the era before the disaster, and there is the very different era that has followed.

- *Mikhail Gorbachev*

Main Research Question:

Do you agree with Mikhail Gorbachev? Could the realities of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster have contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union?

Brainstorm!

GLASNOST

Questions to think about	What do I think?
<p>Soviet policy of open discussion of political and social issues. It was instituted by Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980s and began the democratization of the Soviet Union.</p> <p><i>Hmm. How might this create a new reality for people living in the Soviet Union?</i></p>	
<p>Changes to the political structure of the Soviet Union occurred: the power of the Communist Party was reduced, and multi-candidate elections took place.</p> <p><i>Hmm. How might this create challenges for the political state?</i></p>	
<p>Permitted criticism of government officials and allowed the media free dissemination of news and information.</p> <p><i>Hmm. How might this influence what citizens' think is "real" during a disaster?</i></p>	

Photo Credit: chernobylgallery.com