

The History of Mayak - the History of Ozyorsk



The Monument to the First Builders

V: Hi, Alec!

A: Hello, Vlad!

V: Where are you going?

A: To our school museum to visit a new exhibition.

V: What are they showing?

A: A very interesting material devoted to the 65th anniversary of the Mayak Production Association.

V: Really? That's just what I need now. I am to prepare a talk on the history of the Mayak Production Association.

A: Would you like to join me?

V: Yes, I'd love to

A: Well, let me be your guide.

In 1945 the soviet government decided to start nuclear weapon production. Do you know

V: why?

Certainly. In order to increase the defensive potential of Russia. But I have always wanted to know why they decided to found this industrial enterprise exactly between the towns of

A: Kasli and Kyshtym.

As far as I know, there were several reasons to do it. To begin with, the new production required a lot of water, moreover, it required a lot of energy, and last but not least, the place

V: should be far away from big cities and highways to keep the town invisible and secret.

Then they made the right choice. The location of the town is very suitable for such production.

V: By the way, have you ever heard of the previous names attributed to our settlement?

A: Sure, Chelyabinsk-40 and Chelyabinsk-65.

V: And the earliest ones?

A: I am afraid, I don't know.

The first name of the settlement was Base № 10, and the whole project was called

V: Programme № 1.

A: And Kurchatov was chosen to lead this programme, wasn't he?

Yes, he was. I've read that Kurchatov was not the first scientist who was asked to do it.

There were some others. But it was he who agreed to set to this work. And what is more, under his guidance Russians managed to create the 1st atomic bomb within 4 years. It was a

V: great shock for Americans who had thought that it would take us 15 or 20 years.

A: If I am not mistaken, the first builders appeared in this place in early November 1945.

You are absolutely right. On the 9th of November the Irtyash saw the first group of builders under the guidance of D.Semichastny, director of the construction.

V: So that's why we celebrate the birthday of our town on the 9th of November. Have a look at

- A: these striking photos. It looks like a poor village, doesn't it?
It's not surprising. The first builders had to live in wooden barracks; they had to walk 10 km to get bread. In December 1946 there was only 1 canteen in this place. The workers had to
- V: come to the canteen with their own spoon. No roads, no shops. Their life was really very difficult.
- A: But in spite of all these problems, they managed to develop the complex production process for such a short period of time.
- V: Yes, they did it for their Motherland. By the way, do you know what date is considered to be the birthday of Mayak?
Yes, of course, the 19th of June. Next year it will be the 65th birthday of the Mayak
- A: production association. I think it will be a great holiday in our town. But I'd like to know what happened on this day 65 years ago.
- V: Don't you know it? On the 19th of June 1948 the first industrial reactor called Annushka was
- A: put into operation. It was a very important event for everybody.
Annushka? Such a lovely name for such a complex thing!
- V: Yes, it sounds rather strange. All in all there were seven industrial reactors. But at present only two of them are in operation. Their names are Ruslan and Lyudmila.
Look at this map! It reminds me of an interesting article which I've read lately. It was called 'The Nuclear Tragedy of 1957.' It happened on the 29th of September. It was a warm sunny day. Early in the morning at 4.30 people heard an explosion.
- A: And a huge orange and red cloud of dust and smoke rose into the air. It was a real disaster which did a lot of harm to people's health and the environment. Do you agree?
- V: Yes, the tragedy was terrible, and many people sacrificed their lives. But no information about this accident was published in our country for a long time.
It's but natural, the town was absolutely secret. But at present we can remember all the people who worked hard for the sake of our Motherland.
- A: For example, the directors of Mayak such as: P.Bystrov, B.Muzrukov, N.Semyonov, B. Brokhovich and others.
Well, the life of Ozyorsk is closely connected with the activity of 'Mayak'. Nowadays every
- V: 6th citizen of our town works at the Mayak production association. Life has changed, but 'Mayak' is still the principle enterprise of Ozyorsk.
You are right!

1. Match the right and the left columns.

1 The first builders appeared in this place...	a)...the birthday of Mayak.
2 Base №10 was...	b)... 7 nuclear reactors.
3 The first director of Base №10...	c)...the 1 st name of the settlement.
4 The 19 th of June is considered to be...	d)... more than 55 years ago.
5 The first nuclear reactor...	e)...was P. Bystrov.
6 All in all, there were...	f)...on the 9 th of November 1945.
7 The nuclear tragedy happened...	g)...was called Annushka.
8 Nowadays only two reactors...	h)...works at the Mayak Production Association.
9 Every 6 th citizen of Ozyorsk...	i)...are in operation.

2. Read out the dialogue.

3. Think of what you have learnt about the history of Ozyorsk and write an article (100-150 words).

Keys: 1 – f, 2 – c, 3 – e, 4 – a, 5 – g, 6 – b, 7 – d, 8 – i, 9 – h.

