

Introduction: (<http://time.com/4617295/china-smog-smoking-environment-air-pollution/>)

The Meuse Valley in Belgium contains many farms, villages, steel mills, factories and chemical plants. Its main claim to fame is an 80 year old mystery, still the subject of speculation today.

Early in December of 1930 a thick fog lay over much of the country. Over three days from December 2 to December 5, many people who lived in the Meuse Valley complained of nausea, difficulty breathing, stinging eyes, and burning throats. By the end of three days, 60 people had died and thousands more were ill with an unknown "disease." Had they been sprayed with poisonous gas? Were there leaks of gases from the chemical plants? Was it another outbreak of bubonic plague?

Write a list of possible reasons the people in the Meuse Valley may have died:

You are a scientist investigating this disaster in the 1930s.

- What is the purpose of your investigation? (must include the time frame in the introduction)

- What type of information would you seek to help you learn more about what happened? (write at least 3 things you would like to know)
- Who might you interview? (identify 3 people)
- What questions might you ask? (write 4 questions)

Directions:

1. You have 6 different professionals to interview around the room.
2. For each profession, read through the evidence presented.
3. Identify the evidence that best relates to the mysterious deaths
4. Revise your claim after investigating each profession with new evidence
5. Create a final claim based on evidence from all professions (claim should be SPECIFIC, not "air pollution")
6. Create final explanation with small group

Solving the Mystery:

Use at least 3 pieces of evidence from different professions (and link back to the claim) to support your group's solution.

CLAIM: (What happened in Belgium to cause the deaths?)

Evidence #1:

Source of Evidence #1:

Evidence #2:

Source of Evidence #2:

Evidence #3:

Source of Evidence #3:
