History's deadliest colors

Part 1. Match the highlighted words to its definitions.

1. A glowing, **luminous** green, it was also used in beauty products and jewelry.
2. Unfortunately, radium isn't the only pigment that historically seemed harmless or useful but **turned out to be** deadly.
3. Though we still occasionally run into issues with synthetic food dyes, our scientific understanding has helped us **prune** hazardous colors out of our lives.
4. To make their paint, artists would **grind** a block of lead into powder, exposing highly toxic dust particles.
5. But lead white's density, opacity, and warm tone were **irresistible** to artists like Vermeer, and later, the Impressionists.
6. Two **synthetic** greens called Scheele's Green and Paris Green were first introduced in the 18th century.
7. They were far more **vibrant** and flashy than the relatively dull greens made from natural pigments.
8. The **intense** toxicity of these green stayed under wraps until the arsenic recipe was published in 1822.
9. During World War II, the U.S. government confiscated all uranium for use in bomb development. However, the atomic energy commission relaxed these restrictions in 1959, and **depleted** uranium returned to ceramics and glass factory floors.

A. reduced
B. to make something into small pieces or a powder by pressing between hard surfaces
C. producing or reflecting bright light, especially in the dark
D. to happen in a particular way or to have a particular result, especially an unexpected one
E. made from artificial substances, often copying a natural product
F. impossible to refuse, oppose, or avoid because it is too pleasant, attractive, or strong
G. energetic, exciting, and full of enthusiasm
H. extreme and forceful or (of a feeling) very strong
I. to cut off branches from a tree, bush, or plant, especially so that it will grow better in the future; to reduce something by removing things that are not necessary

Part 2. Watch the video and answer the following questions.

1. In 1898, Marie and Pierre Curie discovered radium. Claimed to have restorative properties, radium was added to _____, _____, _____ and _____.

2. It wasn't until the mid-20th century, we realized that radium's harmful effects as a _____ element _____ its visual benefits.

3. That lamentable distinction includes a trio of colors and pigments that we've long used to decorate ourselves and the things we make: _____, _____ and _____.

4. In humans, lead is directly absorbed into the body and distributed to the : _____, _____ and _____.

5. [one to two words for each blank] Once in the _____, lead mimics and disrupts the normal functions of _____, causing damages ranging from _____ to _____.

6. But lead white's _____, _____ and _____ tone were irresistible to artists like Vermeer, and later, the Impressionists. Its glow couldn't be matched, and the pigment continued to be widely used until it was banned in the 1970s.

7. In humans, exposure to arsenic can damage the way cells communicate and function. And high levels of arsenic have been directly linked to _____ and _____.

8. As a result, 18th century fabric factory workers were often poisoned, and women in green dresses reportedly _____ from exposure to arsenic on their skin. Bed bugs were rumored not to live in green rooms, and it's even been _____ that Napoleon died from slow arsenic poisoning from sleeping in his green wallpapered bedroom.

Part 1 Answers:
1. C
2. D
3. I
4. B
5. F
6. E
7. G
8. H
9. A

Part 2 Answers:
1. toothpaste, medicine, water, and food
2. Radioactive, outweighed
3. white, green, and orange.
4. blood, soft tissues, and mineralized tissues.
5. nervous system, calcium, learning disabilities, high blood pressure
6. density, opacity, and warm
7. cancer and heart disease
8. Collapsed, speculated