

# A Town On the Move

You may have heard about houses being moved from one place to another. That's a lot of work. But what about moving half a town?

That is what is going to happen in the mountainside town of Kiruna, Sweden. (Kiruna is pronounced KEE-ruh-nah.) For more than 100 years, workers have been digging up iron ore from the mountain. Now parts of the town are in danger of collapsing because of cracks in the ground below the buildings. That's why town leaders have a plan to move half the town's buildings to a new spot 2-1/2 miles away.



Buildings and homes are not the only things town leaders want to move. They also want to move some roads and a railroad. No one is sure yet who will pay for the move. Moving the buildings could cost as much as \$4.28 billion dollars.

## **NEWS WORD BOX**

Sweden mountainside  
collapsing iron ore  
rebuilt northernmost

How long does it take to move a town? Leaders say moving the town will take 40 to 50 years. Some buildings will be torn down and rebuilt in the new place. Others will be taken apart, moved to the new place, and put back together. One of the buildings that will be taken apart is a wooden church that once was voted Sweden's most beautiful building.

All of this may seem like a lot of work, but the iron ore mine is very important to Kiruna and Sweden. Moving the town will make it possible for mine workers to dig up 800 million tons of ore that is still in the ground. That will mean jobs and money for the people of Kiruna.

## **MORE FACTS ABOUT KIRUNA**

- Kiruna is the northernmost town in Sweden. The town was built when iron ores were discovered there. Iron ores are rocks used to make iron and steel.
- Kiruna has the world's largest underground mine.

## **THINK ABOUT THE NEWS**

Imagine for a moment that people were thinking about moving the town where you live...  
How would you begin to plan such a move?  
Which buildings would be moved and which would be torn down?