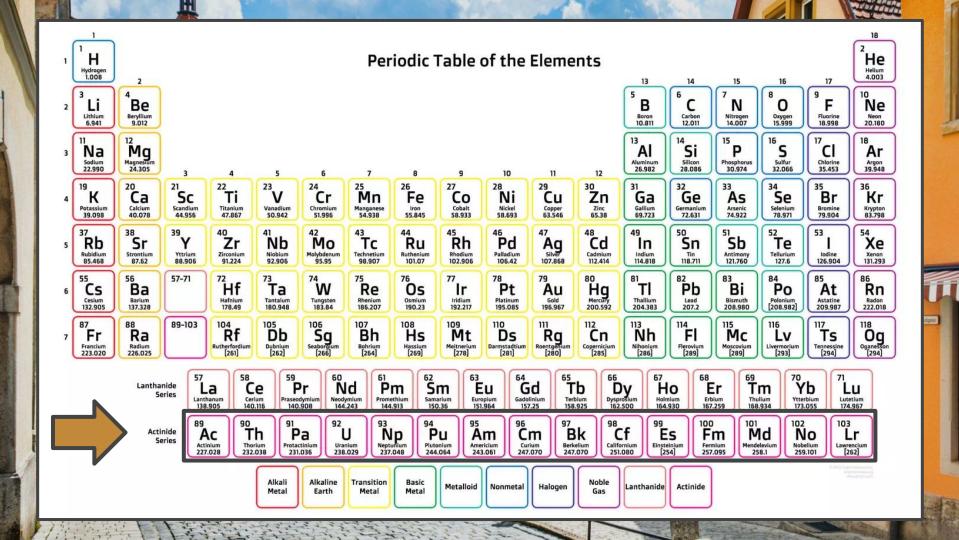




Name the Lanthanide Elements of the

Transition Metals



Actinides



- 1. Actinium (89)
- 2. Thorium (90)
- 3. Protactinium (91)
- 4. Uranium (92)
- 5. Neptunium (93)

- 6. Plutonium (94)
- 7. Americium (95)
- 8. Curium (96)
- 9. Berkelium (97)
- 10. Californium (98)

- 11. Einsteinium (99)
- 12. Fermium (100)
- 13. Mendelevium (101)
- 14. Nobelium (102)
- 15. Lawrencium(103)

There are 15 Actinides.

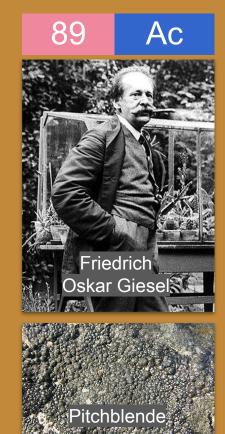


Actinium



Actinium was first isolated from Pitchblende (Radioactive uranium-rich mineral) by German Chemist, Friedrich Oskar Giesel, in 1902, he gave it the name *emanium and was* wrongly identified with a substance André-Louis Debierne found in 1899, called actinium.

Actinium gave the name to the actinide series, a set of 15 elements between actinium and lawrencium in the periodic table. Together with polonium, radium, and radon, actinium was one of the first radioactive elements to be isolated and commonly known as "heavy metals".





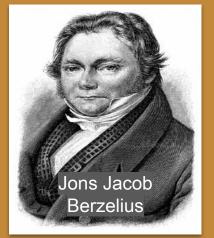
Thorium

Thorium was discovered in 1828 by the Norwegian amateur mineralogist Morten Thrane Esmark in the mineral now called "thorite" and identified by the Swedish chemist Jöns Jacob Berzelius, who named it after Thor, the Norse god of thunder.

Its first applications were developed in the late 19th century. Thorium's radioactivity was widely acknowledged during the first decades of the 20th century.

In the second half of the century, thorium was replaced in many uses due to concerns about its radioactivity.

90 Th







Protactinium

The element was first identified in 1913 by Polish Kazimierz Fajans and his German student, Oswald Helmut Göhring. They named it "brevium" because of the short half-life of the specific isotope being studied (today called protactinium-234).

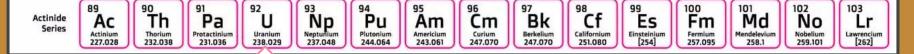
A more stable isotope (protactinium-231) was discovered in 1917/18 by German Lise Meitner in collaboration with Otto Hahn, and they chose the name protactinium. The name "protactinium" was confirmed in 1949 with Hahn and Meitner as the discoverers. The new name meant "(nuclear) precursor of actinium" and implied that actinium is a product of radioactive decay of protactinium.

91 Pa



Kazimierz

Fajans



Uranium



The 1789 discovery of Uranium, in the mineral "pitchblende", is credited to German Chemist, Martin Heinrich Klaproth, who named the element after the recently discovered Uranus.

Uranium-235 was the first isotope that was found to be fissile, which means it is able to undergo nuclear fission. On being hit with slow neutrons, its uranium-235 isotope will most of the time divide into two smaller nuclei, releasing nuclear binding energy and more neutrons. If too many of these neutrons are absorbed by other uranium-235 nuclei, a nuclear chain reaction occurs that results in a burst of heat or (in special circumstances) an explosion.

92

U





Nuclear Fission

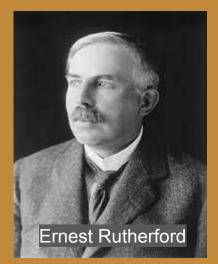
Discovery of the Neutron

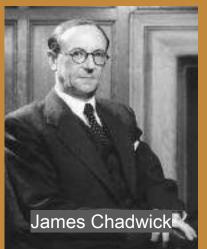
In the 1911 Rutherford model, the atom consisted of a small positively charged massive nucleus surrounded by a much larger cloud of negatively charged electrons.

In 1920, Ernest Rutherford suggested that the nucleus consisted of positive protons and neutrally charged particles.

Both Rutherford and Chadwick were working physicists at the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University.

Chadwick decided to run some experiments in February 1932 and discovered that the radiation he was detecting had the same mass as a proton but with no charge. He had discovered the neutron. He was awarded the Nobel prize in 1935 for his valuable contribution to science.





Discovery of Nuclear Fission

Nuclear fission was discovered on 19 December 1938 in Berlin by German chemists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann.

Physicists Lise Meitner and her nephew Otto Robert Frisch explained it theoretically in January 1939. The process was named "fission" by analogy with biological fission of living cells, by the young Otto Robert Frisch.











Tube Alloys

Otto Robert Frisch with Rudolf Peierls, at the University of Birmingham UK, co-wrote a memorandum explaining that a small mass of pure uranium-235 could be used to produce a chain reaction in a bomb with the power of thousands of tons of TNT.

Marcus Oliphant, an Australian physicist working in Britain created the MAUD Committee and the creation of an atomic bomb to help win the war.

This lead to "Tube Alloys", the UK research and development programme, with help from Canada. Wallace Akers, who oversaw the project, chose the deliberately misleading code name "Tube Alloys".





The Quebec Agreement

Britain initiated the first research project to design an atomic bomb in 1941. The Tube Alloys programme in Britain and Canada was the first nuclear weapons project.

Due to the fact that Britain was fighting a war within bombing range of its enemies they convinced the United States to recognise the importance of this type of research and initiated the Quebec Agreement, under which the three nations agreed to share nuclear weapons technology.

This lead to the Manhattan Project and the development of nuclear weapons with Britain supplying the expertise and technology all the way through to completion in 1945.







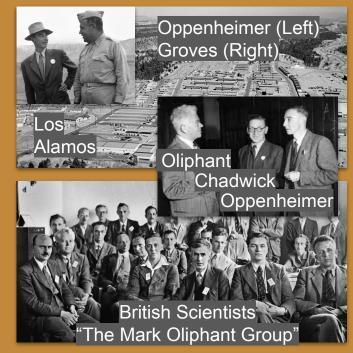
The Quebec Agreement

The Manhattan Project

The Manhattan Project was a joint enterprise conducted by the United States and the United Kingdom with support from Canada.

From 1942 to 1946, the project was under the direction of Major General Leslie Groves of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who oversaw the construction of the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico where the scientists designed and built the first atomic bomb.

J. Robert Oppenheimer was appointed director and claimed that he got the name for the first test, Trinity, from an obscure English poem that he said he loved. Trinity also happens to be the name of Trinity college, Cambridge, where many of the scientists came from.







Trinity Test

Hiroshima 1945

Towards the end of World War 2, on August 6th 1945, a B29 bomber, named Enola Gay, dropped an atomic bomb with a uranium core, called "Little Boy", on the city of Hiroshima in Japan.

The subsequent explosion instantly destroyed the city and killed around 100,000 people. Japan surrendered 4 weeks later ,after 8 years of war, that they had begun with their invasion of China in 1937.











Little Boy - Uranium Core Atomic Bomb - Hiroshima



The Enola Gay Pilot

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