

Physical Science Readers: Antoine Lavoisier: Founder of Modern Chemistry

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Changing Science

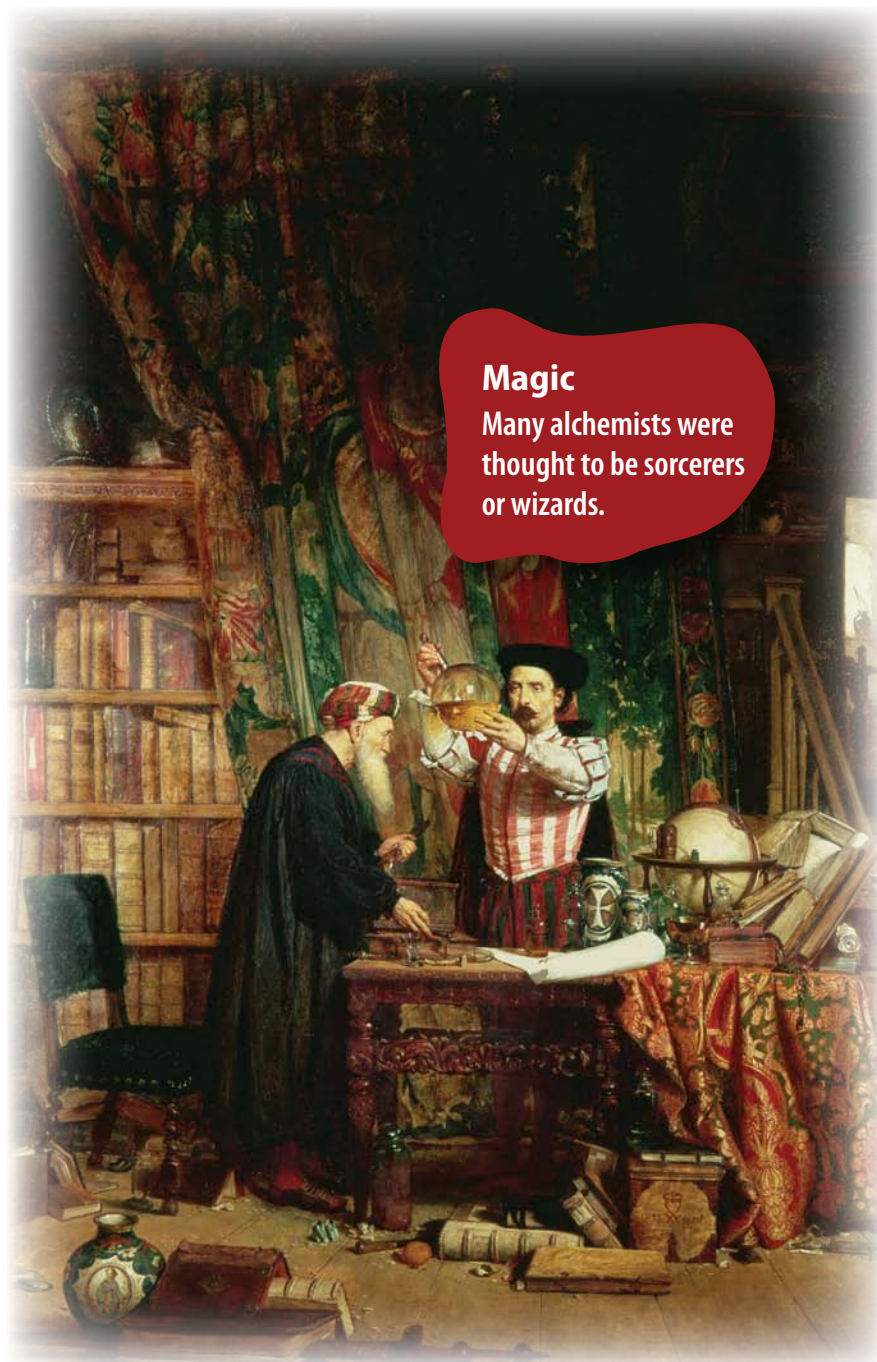
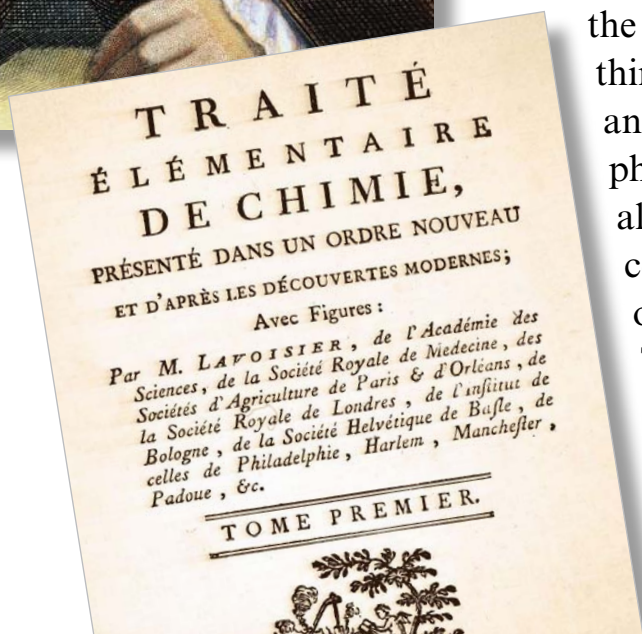


↑ Antoine Laurent Lavoisier

Antoine Laurent Lavoisier (ahn-TWAN loh-RAHN la-vwah-ZYAY) is considered the “Founder of Modern Chemistry.” Many scientists are remembered for their research. Lavoisier is not. He is most remembered for the way he changed how scientists study science.

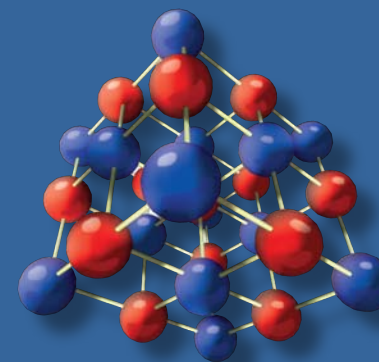
Lavoisier lived in France in the 1700s. People then believed in **alchemy** (AL-kuh-mee). It was an early type of science. Alchemists did not use the **scientific method**. The scientific method is a careful, step-by-step process for proving or disproving something. Alchemists, on the other hand, looked at things such as star patterns and old ideas from ancient philosophers. The alchemists thought they could make gold from other metals like lead. This wasn't true. Many people believed them, anyway.

← The cover page of Lavoisier's book



Magic

Many alchemists were thought to be sorcerers or wizards.



↑ A model of a molecule

Chemistry

Chemistry is the science that deals with the structure, composition, and properties of substances. All substances in the universe are made of **matter**. The building blocks of matter are **atoms**. Atoms combine to make **molecules**. When a substance is made of all the same kind of atoms, it is called an **element**. Matter, all of its parts, how it behaves, and how it is made are all part of chemistry. They are the basic things studied and researched by a chemist.