Happy 150th Birthday Periodic Table!

The Periodic Table of Elements is one of the most recognisable charts in the world.

An element is a substance that cannot be broken down into any other substance. There are 118 known elements and they are the building blocks of all matter.

The first element, phosphorus, was discovered by accident in about 1669 and made public in 1680. As the number of elements discovered grew scientists looked for ways to categorise them and organise them. In 1869 Russian scientist Dmitri Mendeleev developed the periodic table as we know it now. 2019 is the International Year of the Periodic Table, celebrating 150 years of this iconic scientific tool.

You are made of stardust!

You are, really…but then so is everything else so don’t get delusions of grandeur.

All matter is made up of elements, the building blocks of the universe. All the elements, apart from 4, are formed by a process of nuclear fusion inside stars. The heavier elements, such as iron, uranium and gold, are only made during a supernova explosion.

Star Death and the elements
What is a supernova?
Where do the elements come from?
Where does gold come from?

Chemistry is at the centre of everything you can see, smell, touch and taste.

The Royal Society of Chemistry was founded 175 years ago to bring chemists all over the world together to share their work and learn from each other.

It still does that, but it also has a series of brilliant resources for primary and secondary schools.

Learn Chemistry
This Day in Chemistry
Periodic Table

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