



Humphry Davy (1788-1829)

17 Dec 1778

English chemist, Humphry Davy (1788-1829), a woodcarver's son, was born in Penzance.

2 Oct 1798

Humphry Davy left Penzance to take up chemistry and was taken on by Dr Thomas Beddoes, as an assistant at his Medical Pneumatic Institution in Clifton near Bristol.

1799

Humphrey Davy published details of his research in his book 'Researches, Chemical and Philosophical'. This led to Davy being appointed as a lecturer at the Royal Institution.

1800

Humphry Davy announces the anaesthetic properties of nitrous oxide.

16 Feb 1801

Humphry Davy went to the Royal Philosophical Institute in London where he first worked as an assistant. He later became teacher for chemistry and electro-chemistry.

1801

Humphry Davy shows an Electric arc

31 May 1802

Humphry Davy becomes a professor of chemistry.

1802

Humphry Davy discovered and founded Electrochemistry.

1803

Humphrey Davy became a fellow of the Royal Society.

1805

Humphrey Davy was awarded the Royal Society's prestigious Copley medal.

20 Nov 1806

Humphry Davy delivers his first Royal Society 'Baker' lecture.

19 Nov 1807

Humphry Davy delivers his second Royal Society 'Baker' lecture about his research results.



Humphry Davy (1788-1829)

1807

English Chemist Humphry Davy invented electrolysis.

1807

Humphry Davy isolated the element 11, Sodium (Na) and element 19, Potassium (K) by electrolysis.

1807

Humphry Davy becomes one of the three secretaries of the Royal Society.

1808

Davy, Gay-Lussac and Thenard isolated element 5, Boron (B).

1808

Sir Humphry Davy isolates the element 12, Magnesium (Mg), element 38, Strontium (Sr), element 56, Barium (Ba) and element 20, Calcium (Ca).

8 Apr 1812

Humphrey Davy was knighted by King George III.

1812

Humphry Davy married Jane Apreece, born Kerr.

Apr 1813

Humphry Davy resigned from the Royal Institution professorship. His successor was William Thomas Brande.

1 Oct 1813

The Society for Preventing Accidents in Coal Mines in Sunderland was founded under the auspices of the Duke of Northumberland. The chairman, Sir Ralph Milbanke, writes Humphry Davy with the request for him to develop a safe lamp for coal mines. Reverend Hodgson and J.J. Wilkinson also urge Davy to do so.

27 Oct 1813

Humphrey Davy arrived in Paris with his wife and his assistant Michael Faraday. He received special dispensation from Napoleon to travel across France from 1813 to 1815 and with Faraday he travelled abroad investigating his theory of volcanic action.



Humphry Davy (1788-1829)

21 Mar 1815

Sir Humphrey Davy travelled back to England from Europe and came through Innsbruck/Austria, Ulm, Stuttgart, Heidelberg and the Rhine Valley in Germany.

23 Apr 1815

Sir Humphrey Davy arrives back in London.

Oct 1815

Humphry Davy invents the miner's safety lamp for use in gassy coalmines, allowing deep coal seams to be mined despite the presence of firedamp (methane). George Stephenson working in a colliery near Newcastle, also produced a safety lamp that year and both men claimed that they were first to come up with this invention.

Oct 1815

Sir Humphrey Davy of London patents miner's safety lamp.

1818

Humphry Davy discovers nitrous oxide ('laughing gas').

1818

Humphrey Davy was made a baronet.

1820

Humphrey Davy became President of the Royal Society.

29 May 1829

English chemist, Humphry Davy (1788-1829), died in Geneva.