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Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev: The *Sanctus Sanctorum* of the art in the establishment of the first periodic table of the elements

Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev, a Russian chemist, is known for his publication in 1869 of the first accurate version of the periodic table of elements. The establishment of the Periodic Table of the Elements was a scientific and pedagogic breakthrough and was the first step towards transforming how scientists organized, understood and systematized the elemental building blocks of matter. Mendeleev occupies an important place in the early history of the development and advancement of chemistry. His privileged place in history is due to the outstanding value of his scientific work, which is universally recognized, as well as to his personality. Mendeleev was a Russian genius who built his pedestal in the history of science through patience, sacrifice, hard work, and merit, achieving a degree of superior human perfection. Additionally, he was one of the founders of the Russian Chemical Society in 1869. In 1955, a newly discovered element (number 101) was named mendelevium (Md) in his honor.

This year, the French Academy of Science is celebrating its 350th anniversary, which is the perfect occasion to remember Mendeleev, as he was also a member of the French Academy of Science from 1899.

1. The birth of Mendeleev or a success story of the modern chemist

Mendeleev was born at an exciting time of progress in science, as the development of thermodynamics, electromagnetism, organic chemistry, non-Euclidean geometries, astrophysics, and the theory of evolution were all occurring. In this 19th century, when European capitalism was developed and dominated the society, the development of industry and, implicitly, that of chemical science and technology was necessary. Mendeleev was born on 8 February 1834 in Tobolsk, the historical capital of Siberia, to which his father had been exiled under the Tsarist regime. His father was a Russian intellectual and his mother managed a glass factory. The Mendeleev family had 14

children. From birth, Mendeleev understood that life is a battle and that nothing is free. When his father died in 1849, the family moved to St. Petersburg. His family was imbued with the values of goodness and affirmation through work. In 1849, when he was 15 years old, he enrolled at the Faculty of Petersburg with a focus on physics and mathematics. Due to his strong work ethic and his family's focus on education, Mendeleev studied diligently while at school. To obtain his diploma, at the suggestion of Professor Voskresenski, Mendeleev prepared a brilliant dissertation on crystalline isomorphism for his final examination. Voskresenski (who worked with Liebig) had a special appreciation for Mendeleev's remarkable talent. He knew how to excite his students by challenging the ideas of the era regarding the nature of chemical combinations. Voskresenski introduced his students to the debate between supporters of the dualistic theory regarding chemical combinations promoted by Berzelius and supporters of the unitary theory of Gerhardt and Laurent. Mendeleev was passionate about the research on specific chemical dates; consequently, after a year of working in Petersburg, he began two dissertation projects on specific volume and the structure of silicon combinations. His prestige thus increased, and Mendeleev became a docent in chemistry and a permanent collaborator on the aspects of applied chemicals at the Journal of Minister Department of Public Works. He graduated from the college in 1855 with honors, distinguished with the gold medal, and earned his degree. During his study at the university, Mendeleev embodied a resilient spirit of learning for the sake of learning without coercion to do so. His professors taught Mendeleev to be open-minded, and he decided to devote his life to the science of chemistry.

After graduation, he worked as a high-school teacher in Odessa and Simferopol. At 23 (in 1857), he lectured at the University of St. Petersburg. Between 1856–1861, he worked in various European laboratories at different positions. When back in his beloved Russia, he was promoted to

an associate professor of the Department of Organic Chemistry at the University of St. Petersburg. He wrote the first course in organic chemistry in Russia. This course applies and develops the theory of atomo-molecular organic compounds. It introduced the concept of the “homologous series” before Butlerov developed chemical structure theory. The fact that he expressed himself clearly as well as was passionately engaged in the subject and invested time in it made him an excellent teacher. Mendeleev, who had become a lecturer and teacher with charisma and skill well past age 33, offered Butlerov his place in the organic chemistry department in 1867 when he became the head of the General Department of Technology and began preparing a new course of general chemistry for students.

During his time in Europe, he focused on physical chemistry, which enabled him to explore the elements of internal relationships more solidly. He worked in Paris on the properties of gas and on the Gay-Lussac equation. Due to Voskresenski's insistence, in 1857, he joined Professor Bunsen at the University of Heidelberg. They developed their own laboratory using their financial resources and invested in an extensive and complex characterization of the chemical elements. In Heidelberg, Mendeleev was introduced to certain developments in spectroscopy that Bunsen and Kirchhoff had made. He also encountered Cannizzaro.

The Chemistry teacher never gave up interest in learning and attended many conferences, including one about gasses. In 1860, he participated in the first international chemical congress in Karlsruhe, a congress well known for its debates on the concepts of atoms, molecules, and the equivalent. Innovative methods were discussed at this conference, as well as those of Avogadro and Cannizzaro, who wanted to eliminate existing confusion surrounding atoms and molecules. The definition of the molecule was adopted unanimously at this conference, and afterwards, Mendeleev realized the need for a unitary system of chemical elements.

In 1867, he was invited to attend a meeting in France on world industrial exhibition work opportunities by the Russian Museum and visited France, Germany, Belgium, and many chemical factories and laboratories, which enriched his knowledge. These activities not only increased his understanding of the nature of chemical elements, but also laid the foundation for his discovery of the periodic law of elements.

2. The first periodic table of the elements or Mendeleev *primus inter pares*

The classification of chemicals was of concern to many scholars since the late 18th century, when Lavoisier, in his *Elementary Treatise of Chemistry*, presented, in a new order and according to modern discoveries, a table of “substances” regarded in his time as chemical elements. By the mid-19th century, many elements were isolated and characterized. Their masses were accurately calculated, and their chemical properties led to the formation of families, which was an analogy that aroused keen interest. Many chemists worked independently to classify the known

elements. In 1817, Döbereiner discovered the existence of similar chemical properties for some elements that appear in groups of three, known as the triads (1929), such as halogens, which include Cl, Br, I; S, Se, and Te, and also Li, K, and Na. He discovered that atomic weights are integer multiples of the mass of hydrogen. The hypothesis of primordial hydrogen was also supported by Meinecke (1818). Several researchers of the period, including Gmelin (1852), Pettenkofer (1850), Dumas (1851), and Chancourtois (1862) attempted to classify the elements based on atomic masses. However, it can be noted that Berzelius disapproved these assumptions. In 1862, a professor of mineralogy, Chancourtois, communicated to the French Academy a series of studies on the “telluric screw”, which classifies the elements according to constant periods; unfortunately, this discovery, very close to that of Mendeleev's, was published in a journal of geology and had little resonance in the scientific community. In 1864, Newlands, a chemical engineer, discovered the “law of octaves”, which shows that some elements with increasing masses have similar chemical properties, such as the alkali metals Li, Na, and K, but this discovery, although accurate, was ignored, ridiculed or treated with mild curiosity and addressed in esoteric articles; however, his work was later justified. In 1869, Meyer discovered the periodicity of the atomic volume of known elements that appear by families. This discovery, unrelated to the work of Mendeleev, leads to similar conclusions. However, among these researchers, Mendeleev was the only one who noted and used in cognitive goals the hidden link between the elements, and he made the greatest contribution. The periodical chart is also organized into rows so that elements with similar valences can all be found in the same column. These elements also showed similarities to several other chemical properties. Additionally, the table is called the periodic table due to periodic repetitions. His version leaves gaps in the table in the right column for undiscovered elements. In its provision of three as an example, it describes properties that the missing elements should have, depending on the other elements above and below them. To Western scientists, this appears to be typical Russian mysticism. However, in 1875, the first matching element was found; in 1879, a second; finally, in 1885, the last of three elements corresponded perfectly to his description. Mendeleev published his first table on 6 March 1869 (which was subsequently revised several times). On 7 January 1871, he presented the most important version of the periodic table, for which he truly deserves all credit to the exclusion of his contemporaries and predecessors, who also contributed. It must be noted that before the introduction of the periodic table, elements were viewed as separate and independent entities. By arranging elements based upon their characteristics, the periodic table enabled scientists to understand the behavior of elements as members of collective sets. Several elements were predicted to exist and were later discovered to fill the original blanks in the periodic table.

Although a series of important events occurred in 1869, such as the creation of the first transcontinental railroad in the US and the inauguration of the Suez Canal (between Europe and Asia), the discovery of Mendeleev's periodic table remained the most important for academia. The

periodic table is an important discovery of modern chemistry because it provides a valuable framework to classify and compare the behaviors of chemical compounds. Indeed, the periodic table has served as a guide for the synthesis of new structures and has given us a possibility to understand important scientific advances of our society.

However, Mendeleev's contributions to modern scientific life did not stop with the periodic table. Mendeleev also studied the laws of gas, meteorology, and metrology, the petroleum industry, the oil field, agricultural chemicals, smokeless powder, weights and measures, and so forth.

Mendeleev's personal life was full of "chemical reactions" and "chemical excitements". Unfortunately, for political reasons, he was forced to resign from the University of St. Petersburg in 1890. He became a scientific advisor for the Russian military service, and three years later, in 1893, he was appointed as the Director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures in St. Petersburg, a post that he occupied until his death. He is credited for improving the standards for vodka and received an awarded for this accomplishment in 1894.

Mendeleev was awarded a membership in the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He was also as corresponding member of the Academy of Paris (1899).

Mendeleev, born in the era of revolutions, lived during an era of capitalism and progress, but departed from the world forever in the era of modernity on 2 February 1907. However, his genius lives on forever.

Mendeleev was not born to seek happiness or take joy in life; instead, he brought joy to others through his work. Mendeleev remained *nec pluribus impar*.

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1	Matte, Jean (1 February 1660–7 August 1742), French chemist. Rideu, Pierre (1 February 1674–21 April 1750), French professor. Bethencourt y Molina, Agustin, José Pedro del Carmen-Domingo de Candelaria de (1 February 1758–14 July 1824), Spanish engineer of Russian origin. Boussingault, Jean-Baptiste Joseph Dieudonné (1 February 1801–11 May 1887), French chemist. Strasburger, Eduard (1 February 1844–19 May 1912), Polish-German botanist. Blaringhem, Louis Florimond Joseph (1 February 1878–1 January 1958), French botanist. Kozłowski, Roman Stanislas (1 February 1889–2 May 1977), Polish professor. Hürzeler, Johannes (1 February 1908–24 July 1995), Swiss paleontologist. Dautray, Robert (1 February 1928), French engineer. Arzac, Jacques (1 February 1929–14 January 2014), French engineer.
2	Renau d'Élissagaray Bernard (2 February 1652–30 September 1719), French engineer. Buache, Philippe (2 February 1700–24 January 1773), French geographer. Sepmanville, François Cyprien Antoine Lieudé de (2 February 1762–28 January 1817), French baron. Link, Heinrich Friedrich (2 February 1767–1 January 1851), German botanist. Binet, Jacques-Philippe-Marie (2 February 1786–12 May 1856), French astronomer. Boussingault, Jean Baptiste Joseph Dieudonné (2 February 1802–11 May 1887), French chemist. Pechès, Ivan Pierre (2 February 1906–30 September 1978), French chemist. Daudel, Raymond (2 February 1920–20 June 2006), French chemist.
3	Stéhélin, Benedict (3 February 1695–2 August 1750), French botanist. Delesse, Achille Ernest Oscar Joseph (3 February 1817–24 March 1881), French mineralogist. Payer, Jean Baptiste (3 February 1818–5 September 1860), French botanist. Pinoy, Pierre Ernest (3 February 1873–30 October 1948), French biologist. Arambourg, Louis Joseph Camille (3 February 1885–19 November 1969), French paleontologist. Julia, Gaston Maurice (3 February 1893–19 March 1978), French mathematician. Champetier, Georges (3 February 1905–18 February 1980), French chemist. Kanatani, Haruo (3 February 1930–13 February 1984), Japanese scientist. Hofnung, Maurice Jacky (3 February 1942–28 June 2001), French biologist. Adoutte, André (3 February 1947–19 March 2002), French biologist.
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Mallard, François Ernest (4 February 1833–6 July 1894), French mineralogist.
 Lacroix, François Antoine Alfred (4 February 1863–16 March 1948), French mineralogist.
 Zenk, Meinhardt (4 February 1933–5 July 2011), German biochemist.
 Petit, Christine (4 February 1948), French doctor.

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- 5 Mascagni, Paolo (5 February 1755–19 October 1815), Italian physician.
 Brongniart, Alexandre (5 February 1770–7 October 1847), French scientist.
 Haidinger, Wilhelm Ritter von (5 February 1795–19 March 1871), Austrian mineralogist.
 Duhamel, Jean Marie Constant (5 February 1797–29 April 1872), French physicist.
 Lindley, John (5 February 1799–1 November 1865), English botanist.
 Cotton, Émile Clément (5 February 1872–14 March 1950), French professor.
 Javillier, Jean Maurice (5 February 1875–15 June 1955), French biochemist.
 Becquerel, Jean Antoine Edmond Marie (5 February 1878–4 July 1953), French physicist.
 Claesson, Stig Melker (5 February 1917–31 July 1988), Swedish chemist.
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- 6 Jurine, Louis (6 February 1751–20 October 1819), Swiss doctor.
 Wheatstone, Charles (6 February 1802–19 October 1875), English physicist.
 Martins, Charles Frédéric (6 February 1806–7 March 1889), French botanist.
 Quatrefages de Bréau, Jean Louis Armand de (6 February 1810–12 January 1892), French biologist.
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- 7 Buache, Philippe (7 February 1700–24 January 1773), French geographer.
 Bayen, Pierre (7 February 1725–15 February 1798), French chemist.
 Huggins, William (7 February 1824–12 May 1910), English astronomer.
 Gilbert, Louis Philippe (7 February 1832–4 February 1892), Belgian mathematician.
 Hardy, Godfrey Harold (7 February 1877–1 December 1947), English mathematician.
 Parodi, Maurice Alexandre (7 February 1907–4 February 1992), French scientist.
 Chambon, Pierre (7 February 1931), French biochemist.
 Damour, Thibault (7 February 1951), French physicist.
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- 8 Deluc, Jean André (8 February 1727–7 November 1817), Swiss scientist.
 Scacchi, Arcangelo (8 February 1810–11 October 1893), Italian mineralogist.
 Mendeleev, Dmitry Ivanovitch (8 February 1834–2 February 1907), Russian chemist.
 De Giorgi, Ennio (8 February 1928–25 October 1996), Italian mathematician.
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- 9 Grandchain, Guillaume Jacques Constant de Liberge de (9 February 1744–19 June 1805), French captain.
 Lagrula, Jean Louis (9 February 1906–25 March 1988), French astronomer.
 Lewy-Bertaut, Erwin Félix (9 February 1913–6 November 2003), French physicist.
 Durchon, Maurice Roger Paul (9 February 1921–22 November 1994), French zoologist.
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- 10 Boulduc, Gilles-François (10 February 1675–17 January 1741), French chemist.
 Bouguer, Pierre (10 February 1698–15 August 1758), French physicist.
 Geer, Charles de (10 February 1720–8 March 1778), Swedish industrialist.
 Paucton, Alexis Jean-Pierre (10 February 1732–15 June 1798), French mathematician.
 Thouin, André (10 February 1747–27 October 1824), French botanist.
 Navier, Claude Louis Marie Henri (10 February 1785–21 August 1836), French engineer.
 De la Beche, Henry Thomas (10 February 1796–13 April 1855), English geologist.
 Bréau, Jean Louis Armand de Quatrefages de (10 February 1810–12 January 1892), French biologist.
 Schwendener, Simon (10 February 1829–27 May 1919), Swiss botanist.
 Briner, Émile (10 February 1879–11 April 1965), Swiss chemist.
 Cornubert, Raymond Alexandre Louis (10 February 1889–8 January 1984), French chemist.
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- 11 Fontenelle, Bernard Le Bovier de (11 February 1657–9 January 1757), French scientist.
 Après de Manneville, Jean Baptiste Nicolas Denis d' (11 February 1707–1 March 1780), French engineer.
 Parade, Louis François Adolphe (11 February 1802–29 October 1864), French professor.
 Renault, Thomas Eugene Éloi (11 February 1805–27 May 1863), French veterinarian.
 Brassey, Thomas (11 February 1836–23 February 1918), British politician.
 Thellier, Émile (11 February 1904–21 May 1987), French physicist.
 Prettre, Marcel Jules (11 February 1905–16 July 1976), French scientist.
 Chevalley, Claude (11 February 1909–28 June 1984), French mathematician.
 Friedel, Jacques (11 February 1921–27 August 2014), French physicist.
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- 12 Dulong, Pierre-Louis (12 February 1785–19 July 1838), French chemist and physicist.
 Darwin, Charles Robert (12 February 1809–19 April 1882), English naturalist and geologist.
 Dana, James Dwight (12 February 1813–14 April 1895), American zoologist.
 Davis, William Morris (12 February 1850–5 February 1934), American geographer.
 Enders, John Franklin (12 February 1897–8 September 1985), American biomedical scientist and Nobel laureate (1954).
 Heim, Roger Jean (12 February 1900–17 September 1979), French botanist.
 Wolff, Étienne (12 February 1904–18 November 1996), French biologist.
 Mandel, Jean-Louis (12 February 1946), French doctor.
 Yusupov, Marat (12 February 1956), French biologist of Russian origin.
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- 13 Geoffroy, Étienne François (13 February 1672–6 January 1731), French chemist.
 Louis, Antoine (13 February 1723–20 May 1792), French doctor.
 Banks, Joseph (13 February 1743–19 June 1820), British naturalist.
 Fabbroni, Giovanni Valentino Mattia (13 February 1752–17 December 1822), Italian naturalist and chemist.
 Dulong, Pierre Louis (13 February 1785–19 July 1838), French chemist.
 Dirichlet, Peter Gustav Lejeune (13 February 1805–5 May 1859), German mathematician.
 Verneuil, Philippe Édouard Poullétié de (13 February 1805–29 May 1873), French paleontologist.
 Gasparin, Paul Joseph de (13 February 1812–8 May 1893), French politician.

Reboul, Pierre Edmond (13 February 1829–23 December 1902), French chemist.
 Brouardel, Paul Camille Hippolyte (13 February 1837–23 July 1906), French pathologist.
 Vuillemin, Jean Paul (13 February 1861–30 June 1932), French doctor.
 Weissenbach, Jean (13 February 1946), French biologist.

14	Tallard, Camille de Hostun de (14 February 1652–29 March 1728), French diplomat and military commander. Desfontaines, René Louiche (14 February 1750–16 November 1833), French botanist. Delessert, Jules Paul Benjamin (14 February 1773–1 March 1847), French naturalist. Sabatier, Charles Paul Dieudonné Armand (14 February 1834–22 December 1910), French zoologist. Baillaud, Édouard Benjamin (14 February 1848–8 July 1934), French astronomer.
15	Rouelle, Hilaire Marin (15 February 1718–7 April 1779), French chemist. ¹¹ Buache de La Neuville, Jean Nicolas (15 February 1741–21 November 1825), French geographer. Corvisart, Jean Nicolas de (15 February 1755–18 September 1821), French doctor. Montagne, Jean François Camille (15 February 1784–5 January 1866), French naturalist. Navier, Claude Louis Marie Henri (15 February 1785–21 August 1836), French engineer. Malaguti, Faustino Jovita Marianus (15 February 1802–26 April 1878), French chemist. Mac Cormick, Cyrus Hall (15 February 1809–13 May 1884), American inventor. Zeuthen, Hieronymus Georg (15 February 1839–6 January 1920), Danish mathematician. Guillaume, Charles-Édouard (15 February 1861–13 June 1938), Swiss physicist and Nobel laureate (1920). Euler-Chelpin, Hans August Simon von (15 February 1873–7 November 1964), Swedish biochemist and Nobel laureate (1929). Prohaska, Carl Wilhelm (15 February 1903–19 November 1989), Danish engineer. Kubo, Ryogo (15 February 1920–31 March 1995), Japanese mathematical physicist Talagrand, Michel Pierre (15 February 1952), French mathematician.
16	Cassini, Jacques Cassini II (16 February 1677–15 April 1756), French astronomer. Jacquin, Nicolas Joseph (16 February 1727–24 October 1817), Dutch botanist. Omalius d'Hallo, Jean-Baptiste Julien d' (16 February 1783–15 January 1875), Belgian geologist. Pouillet, Claude Servais Mathias Marie Roland (16 February 1790–13 June 1868), French physicist and politician. Siebold, Karl Theodor Ernst von (16 February 1804–7 April 1885), German physiologist and zoologist. De Vries, Hugo (16 February 1848–21 May 1935), Dutch botanist. Rabut, Charles (16 February 1852–31 March 1925), French engineer. Segre, Beniamino (16 February 1903–2 October 1977), Italian mathematician. Ivanovitch Manin, Yuri (16 February 1937), Russian-German mathematician.
17	Fontaney, Jean de (17 February 1643–16 January 1710), French teacher of mathematics. Sherard, William (17 February 1659–11 August 1728), English botanist. Saussure, Horace Bénédicte de (17 February 1740–22 January 1799), Swiss naturalist. Baer, Karl Ernst von (17 February 1792–16 November 1876), Estonian scientist. Chambrelet, Jules François (17 February 1817–13 November 1893), French agronomist. Bérard, Léon Eugène (17 February 1870–2 September 1956), French doctor.
18	Lang, Charles Nicolas (18 February 1670–2 May 1741), Swiss naturalist and doctor. Cassini, Jacques (18 February 1677–16 April 1756), French astronomer. Courtanvaux, François-César Le Tellier de (18 February 1718–7 July 1781), French scientist. Roland de la Platière, Jean-Marie (18 February 1734–10 November 1793), French economist. Sané, Jacques Noël (18 February 1740–22 August 1831), French engineer. Volta, Alessandro (18 February 1745–5 March 1827), Italian physicist. Bucquet, Jean-Baptiste-Marie (18 February 1746–24 January 1780), French chemist. Hall, Marshall (18 February 1790–11 August 1857), English physician and physiologist. Hjort, Johan (18 February 1869–7 October 1948), Norwegian scientist. Killian, Charles (18 February 1887–27 January 1957), French botanist. Poisson, Raymond Alfred (18 February 1895–27 November 1973), French zoologist. Dangeard, Pierre Jean Louis (18 February 1895–23 August 1970), French botanist. Berthoz, Alain (18 February 1939), French neurophysiologist.
19	Solander, Daniel-Charles (19 February 1733–13 May 1782), Swedish naturalist. Fairbairn, William (19 February 1789–18 August 1874), Scottish civil engineer. Murchison, Roderick Impey (19 February 1792–22 October 1871), Scottish geologist. Rokitansky, Charles (19 February 1804–23 July 1878), Bohemian pathologist and politician. Boileau, Pierre Prosper (19 February 1811–11 September 1891), French engineer. Trépiéd, Jean-Charles (19 February 1845–10 June 1907), French physicist. Gouy, Louis Georges (19 February 1854–27 January 1926), French physicist. Arrhenius, Svante August (19 February 1859–2 October 1927), Swedish scientist and Nobel laureate (1903). Hedin, Sven Anders (19 February 1865–26 November 1952), Swedish geographer. Jacob, Charles François Étienne (19 February 1878–13 August 1962), French geologist. Teissier, Paul Georges (19 February 1900–7 January 1972), French zoologist.
20	Favre, Pierre-Antoine (20 February 1813–17 February 1880), French doctor and chemist. Mascart, Éleuthère Élie Nicolas (20 February 1837–26 August 1908), French physicist. Boltzmann, Ludwig (20 February 1844–5 September 1906), Austrian physicist.
21	Tenonn, Jacques René (21 February 1724–15 January 1816), French doctor. Rochon, Alexis-Marie de (21 February 1741–5 April 1817), French astronomer. Foulquier, François Joseph (21 February 1744–13 February 1789), French intellectual. Bourgeois, Joseph Émile Robert (21 February 1857–10 November 1945), French politician. Bazy, Pierre Jean Louis (21 February 1883–30 November 1960), French doctor.
22	Bordeu, Théophile de (22 February 1722–23 November 1776), French doctor.

	Dombey, Joseph (22 February 1742 – May 1794), French botanist. Hausmann, Johann Friedrich Ludwig (22 February 1782–26 December 1859), French mineralogist. Borchardt, Carl Wilhelm (22 February 1817–27 June 1880), German mathematician. Janssen, Pierre Jules César (22 February 1824–23 December 1907), French astronomer. Mortensen, Theodor Ole Jensen (22 February 1868–3 April 1952), Danish scientist. Bressou, Clément Jean-Pierre François Emmanuel (22 February 1887–31 January 1979), French naturalist and biologist. Morel, François (22 February 1923–9 May 2007), French biologist of Swiss origin.
23	La Luzerne, César-Henri de (23 February 1737–24 March 1799), French politician. Fleuriau de Bellevue, Louis Benjamin (23 February 1761–9 February 1852), French scientist and politician. Emberger, Louis Marie (23 February 1897–29 November 1969), French botanist. Favre, Alexandre Jean Auguste (23 February 1911–25 May 2005), French physicist.
24	Hunauld, François-Joseph (24 February 1701–15 December 1742), French scientist. Vaucanson, Jacques de (24 February 1709–21 November 1782), French inventor. Malvezzi, Alfonso Bonfioli (24 February 1730–30 January 1804), Italian intellectual. Bérard, Auguste (24 February 1796–7 October 1852), French intellectual and geographer. Peligot, Eugène Melchior (24 February 1811–15 April 1890), French chemist. Graebe, Carl (24 February 1841–19 January 1927), German chemist. Wléricq, Gérard Gabriel (24 February 1921–28 January 2010), French scientist. Rouxel, Jean Marcel Marie (24 February 1935–19 March 1998), French scientist. Pellat, René (24 February 1936–4 August 2003), French scientist. Césarsky, Catherine (24 February 1943), French astronomer. Mansuy, Daniel (24 February 1945), French chemist.
25	Morgagni, Giovanni Battista (25 February 1682–5 December 1771), Italian anatomist. Maire, le P. Christopher (25 February 1697–22 February 1767), English-Belgian intellectual. La Croix, Charles Eugène Gabriel de (25 February 1727–11 January 1801), French marshal. Fortrat, René Lucien (25 February 1886–29 May 1966), French physicist. Delhaye, Jean Robert Émile (25 February 1912–2 April 2001), French astronomer.
26	Blanzy, Jérôme Bignon de (26 February 1698–8 March 1743), French librarian. Bouin, Jean Théodore (26 February 1715–1795), French intellectual. Gunner, Johan Ernst (26 February 1718–25 September 1773), Norwegian botanist. Baumé, Antoine (26 February 1728–15 October 1804), French chemist. Mathieu de Dombasle, Christophe Joseph Alexandre (26 February 1777–27 December 1843), French agronomer. Arago, Dominique François Jean (26 February 1786–2 October 1853), French physicist and astronomer. Clapeyron, Émile (26 February 1799–28 January 1864), French engineer and physicist. Pelouze, Théophile Jules (26 February 1807–31 May 1867), French chemist. Sainte-Claire Deville, Charles Joseph (26 February 1814–10 October 1876), French geologist. Benoit, Jacques Marie (26 February 1896–1 December 1982), French biologist and doctor. Natta, Giulio (26 February 1903–2 May 1979), Italian chemist and Nobel laureate (1963). Nicolet, Marcel (26 February 1912–8 October 1996), Belgian physicist and meteorologist. Bismut, Jean-Michel (26 February 1948), French mathematician. Brigitte Kieffer (26 February 1958), French molecular neurobiologist.
27	Joubin, Louis Marie Adolphe Olivier Édouard (27 February 1861–24 April 1935), French zoologist. Charles, Honoré (27 February 1871–26 May 1967), French geophysicist. Lyot, Bernard Ferdinand (27 February 1897–2 April 1952), French astronomer. Doob, Joseph (27 February 1910–7 June 2004), American mathematician. Lorius, Claude (27 February 1932), French glaciologist.
28	Delisle, Guillaume (28 February 1675–26 January 1726), French geographer. Réaumur, René-Antoine Ferchault de (28 February 1683–17 October 1757), French physicist and naturalist. Godin, Louis (28 February 1704–11 September 1760), French astronomer. Courtivron, Gaspard Le Compasseur de Créquy-Montfort de (28 February 1715–5 October 1785), French engineer. Chabert, Joseph-Bernard de (28 February 1724–1 December 1805), French astronomer. Vandermonde, Alexandre Théophile (28 February 1735–1 January 1796), French mathematician. Haüy, René-Just (28 February 1743–1 June 1822), French mineralogist. Favé, Ildephonse (28 February 1812–14 March 1894), French intellectual. Frémy, Edmond (28 February 1814–2 February 1894), French chemist. Lévy, Maurice (28 February 1838–30 September 1910), French engineer. Effront, Jean (28 February 1856–22 August 1931), Belgian scientist. Vernadsky, Vladimir Ivanovitch (28 February 1863–24 December 1944), Russian mineralogist Pauling, Linus Carl (28 February 1901–19 August 1994), American chemist. Nobel laureate in chemistry (1954) and Peace (1962). Burkitt, Denis (28 February 1911–23 March 1993), British surgeon. Nirenberg, Louis (28 February 1925), American mathematician of Canadian origin. Bourgain, Jean (28 February 1954), Belgian mathematician.
29	Blaserna, Pietro (29 February 1836–26 February 1918), Italian mathematician.