

Topic	Elements	Level	Key Stage 3
Outcomes	1. To use chemical symbols for elements 2. To identify elements using the Periodic table		

The Chemist's Castle



Once upon a time in a land far far away there lived a famous scientist called Mendeleev. He lived in a huge castle that had walls made of gold. Mendeleev loved to have parties where he could invite all his friends to tea that he made in his giant copper teapot. He would blow up balloons with helium gas and hang them from the castle walls. He would give his guests cups and plates made from silver. The guests loved Mendeleev's parties because they always finished with fireworks, made from iron and magnesium, which filled the sky with beautiful colours.

One day Mendeleev made a mistake. When he was filling his party balloons he used hydrogen instead of helium gas. At the end of the party when the fireworks went off, the balloons caught fire with a "BANG" and everyone was very scared. Luckily the castle did not catch on fire. From this day forward Mendeleev always labels his gas jars carefully, using the name **and** symbol for the gas.

Questions:

1. Can you underline all the different elements in this story?
2. Can you find the symbols for these elements in your Periodic table?
3. Make up your own story using as many elements as you can.

Progress: further resources on atomic structure are available here
<http://www.thescienceteacher.co.uk/atomicstructure>