

Front Page News

Leo Baekeland invented the first truly synthetic plastic, Bakelite, in 1907. Already a successful businessman, he quickly exploited his invention ahead of his competitors. The potential for his new material was remarkable; the explosion of the 'plastics age' was about to begin...

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter in 1907, writing a hot-off-the-press front page story about Baekeland's achievement.

In the first section of the exhibition – 'The Birth of Plastics' – use the film clips, the touch screen, the text on the red plastic strips and the items on display to make notes.

Then use your notes to write your newspaper story in the spaces below.

Headline

Write an attention grabbing headline for your article. Try to find a clever pun, a play on words, or perhaps a song title.

Introduction

Make people want to read your story by summarising it in a couple of sentences. Remember to say why it's exciting.

Science behind the story

What did Leo Baekeland do and why is his invention so remarkable?

Picture

Find an exhibit from the displays that would make an eye catching picture for your story.

Caption for picture

Opinions

Is there anything surprising or controversial in this story?

Implications

How will this development impact on people? For example, how might this new material change people's lives?

Quotes

Can you find (or make up) any quotes to slot into your story?



When you have finished with this sheet please recycle it.

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