



# ATOMIC COMICS

## THE BEARDED DETECTIVES: THE CASE OF THE PERIODIC TABLE

# 6

IN DEVELOPING THE PERIODIC TABLE, IT HELPED TO HAVE A BEARD. THE BIGGER THE BETTER.



SORRY...

FRENCH CHEMIST ALEXANDRE-EMILE BEGUYER DE CHANCOURTOIS (1820-1886) HAD A BIG NAME BUT ONLY A SMALL BEARD.



BECAUSE OF THIS HE DIDN'T QUITE SUCCEED.

IN 1862, HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO PRODUCE A CHART OF THE KNOWN ELEMENTS ARRANGED IN ORDER OF THEIR ATOMIC WEIGHTS.



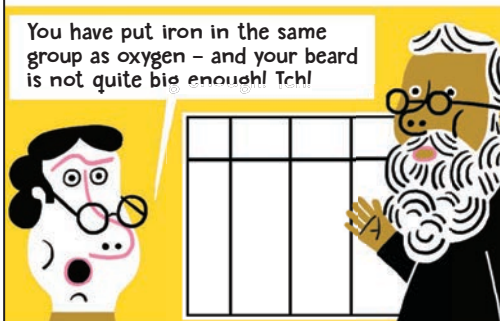
SADLY, HIS WORK WAS OVERLOOKED.

THE NEXT BEARDY TO HAVE A BASH WAS BRITISH CHEMIST JOHN NEWLANDS, WHO HAD A MUCH BIGGER BEARD. AND DID MUCH BETTER.



PUBLISHED IN 1864, THIS GROUPED TOGETHER ELEMENTS WITH ATOMIC MASSES EIGHT PLACES APART.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS...



IT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE, BUT NEWLANDS HADN'T QUITE HIT ON IT.

LUCKILY HOTSHOT RUSSIAN CHEMIST DMITRI MENDELEEV\* HAD A REALLY BIG BEARD, BIG HAIR, AND A BRAIN TO MATCH.



\*PRONOUNCED DE-ME-TREE MEN-DEL-LAY-YEV (1834-1907)

IN 1867 MENDELEEV BEGAN WORK ON A NEW CHEMISTRY TEXTBOOK WHICH INVOLVED MAKING A FACT CARD FOR EVERY KNOWN ELEMENT...



WHICH, OF COURSE, MEANT ONLY ONE THING...



ASLEEP, DMITRI DREAMED HE SAW THE CARDS REARRANGE THEMSELVES INTO A TABLE - WITH GAPS WHERE NEW ELEMENTS WERE STILL TO BE FOUND.



WELL, THAT'S THE STORY HE LIKED TO TELL!

IN 1869, DMITRI WENT PUBLIC WITH HIS PERIODIC TABLE, USING IT TO PREDICT THE EXISTENCE OF TWO UNKNOWN ELEMENTS TO FILL SOME OF HIS GAPS.



⚡ A MEANS ONE AFTER IN THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE OF SANSKRIT (DON'T ASK...)

NOT EVERYONE ACCEPTED MENDELEEV'S IDEAS UNTIL...



NOW KNOWN AS \*GALLIUM, AND \*\*GERMANIUM (SEE PAGE 38).

MENDELEEV'S TABLE HAD BEEN VALIDATED, AND TODAY HE HAS AN ELEMENT NAMED IN HIS HONOUR.

ERBIUM	THULIUM	YTTERBIUM
FERMIUM	⚡ BIG-BEARD-IUM MENDELEVIUM	NOBELIUM

CAN YOU FIND IT IN YOUR TABLE?