

THE TOP 10 AND MORE

Beautiful Experiments Ranked By Number of Nominations & Historians

- 1** Louis Pasteur's separation of tartrate enantiomers (1848)

- 2** Antoine Lavoisier's work on oxidation of metals, which led to the general theory of combustion and oxidation (ca. 1775)

- 3** Emil Fischer's determination of the configuration of glucose (ca. 1890)

- 4** Sir Humphry Davy's isolation, using electrolysis, of sodium and potassium (1807). And of magnesium, calcium, strontium, and barium (1808)

- 5** William Henry Perkin's synthesis of the dye mauve (1856)

- 6** Gustav Kirchhoff and Robert Bunsen's demonstration that metal compounds heated in a flame emit spectral lines characteristic of metal (1859)

- 7** Joseph Priestley's discovery of oxygen by heating "red calx"-mercury(II) oxide (1774)

- 8** Neil Bartlett's preparation of the first noble-gas compound, xenon hexafluoroplatinate, from platinum hexafluoride (1962)

- 9** Victor Grignard's discovery of the use of organomagnesium compounds in synthesis (ca. 1899)

- 10** Marie and Pierre Curie's discovery of polonium and radium (1898)