

31st March – Robert Bunsen's birthday (1811) and the Bunsen burner



Robert Bunsen

Born

31 March 1811

Died

16 August 1899



1855



1860



1861

Robert Bunsen is best known for the eponymous Bunsen burner and discovering caesium and rubidium.

The Bunsen burner

The flame

The coolest flame (safety flame) is yellow/orange, due to incandescent soot particles. The hotter, 'roaring' flame is blue.

The barrel

The barrel raises the height of the flame, allowing it to be used more easily for heating.

The fuel

Methane is usually the gas used from gas taps to fuel Bunsen burners. Both propane and butane can also be used as fuels.



The collar

The collar allows the flow of air into the burner to be adjusted. A blue, roaring flame is produced when it is completely open; a safety flame is produced when it is closed.

The air hole and gas jet

The air hole allows air into the burner (adjustable with the collar). The air is drawn in by the rush of gas ejected from the gas jet.

