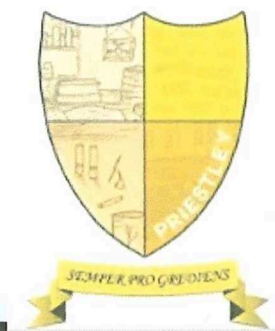


Joseph Priestley

By Oliver Elford – 7P

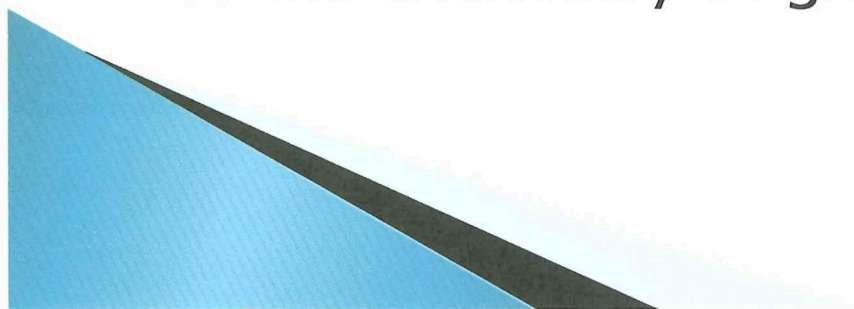


Joseph Priestly

- ▶ Namesake of Priestley House.
- ▶ Born March 13, 1733.
Birstall Fieldhead, near Leeds,
Yorkshire now West Yorkshire,
England.
- ▶ Died February 6, 1804,
Northumberland, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

An overview:

- ▶ English clergyman, political theorist, and physical scientist whose work contributed to advances in liberal political and religious thought and in experimental chemistry. Priestley is best remembered for his contribution to the chemistry of gases.



Why is Priestley remembered ?

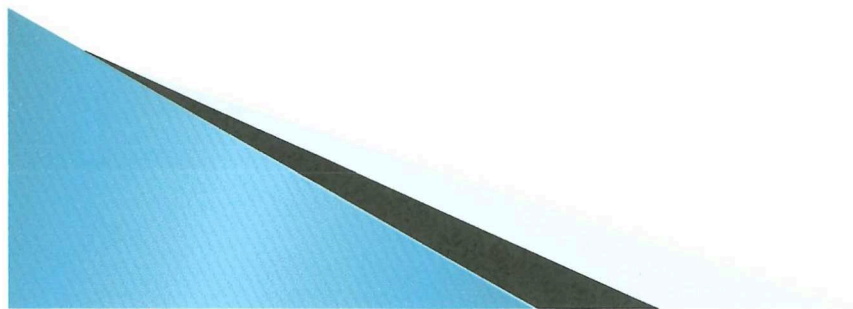
Priestley is remembered for his work on:

- ▶ Electricity.
- ▶ The chemistry of gases.
- ▶ The discovery of oxygen and the chemical revolution.
- ▶ Theology, teaching, and politics.

Notes:

Theology is the study of the nature of God and religious belief

Chemical revolution was the early modern reformulation of chemistry that culminated in the law of conservation of mass and the oxygen theory of combustion

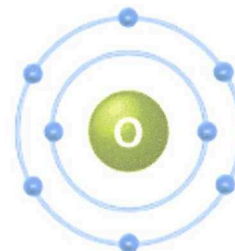


Cont'd.

- ▶ The discovery he made on August 1, 1774, when he obtained a colourless gas by heating red mercuric oxide. Finding that a candle would burn and that a mouse would thrive in this gas, he called it “dephlogisticated air,” based upon the belief that ordinary air became saturated with phlogiston once it could no longer support combustion and life.
- ▶ Priestley was not yet sure, however, that he had discovered a “new species of air” .
- ▶ Lavoisier’s pronouncements of the activity of oxygen revolutionized chemistry.
- ▶ Science was an important part of Priestley’s “Rational Christianity.”
- ▶ In *Institutes of Natural and Revealed Religion* (1772–74), Priestley used psychologist and liberal Anglican David Hartley’s “doctrine of association of ideas” to support his view that mankind’s perfectibility was the inevitable consequence of a growing awareness of man’s place in a deterministic system of benevolence.

OXYGEN

Atomic number: 8
Atomic weight: 15.999
For shell: 2, 6



The discovery
of Oxygen

Theology, teaching,
and politics