



AILS A FERGUSSON

# BORON

Element Symbol: **B**

Atomic Number: **5**

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The name boron originates from the Arabic word buraq.

The first mention of boron compounds is found in a book by Persian alchemist Rhazes (c. 865-c. 925).

Boron was discovered by Sir Humphrey Davy in 1808 when he reacted boric acid ( $\text{HBO}_3$ ) with potassium. Joseph-Louis Gay-Lussac and LJ Thernard also discovered Boron simultaneously in Paris.

Borax glazes were used in China from AD300.

Several boron compounds are known for their extreme hardness and toughness. Used in bullet proof vests.

Uses : Fibreglass Insulation, Ceramics, Glass, Fertiliser / Plant Nutrients, fire retarding.

Boric acid is also traditionally used as an insecticide, notably against ants, fleas, and cockroaches.

Boron is a relatively rare element in the Earth's crust, representing only 0.001%. The worldwide commercial borate deposits are estimated at 10 million tonnes.

*Provided by the element sponsor Redox Pty Ltd*

## ARTISTS DESCRIPTION

The written word boron has all the letters interlinked representing the elements ability to form cross-linkages between molecules. The dead ants signify the toxicity of boron to arthropods.

***AILSA FERGUSON***