

Alchemy
KS2, 3 and 4
Tuesday - History

Alchemy is an ancient science that came before chemistry. The aim of alchemy was to try and change certain materials and substances into other materials. The main goal of many alchemists was to try to create The Philosopher's Stone. A special substance that could bring immortality to the holder. You may have read about this in the *Harry Potter* books.

In this series the creator of The Philosopher's Stone is Nicholas Flamel. Nicholas Flamel was a real person. You can find out more about him here:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/nicolas-flamel-alchemy-and-the-legend-of-the-philosopher%E2%80%99s-stone/nwLiqPSro7CIJQ>

Alchemy is often linked to magic but is also thought of as an early form of science. Alchemists attempted to purify, change, and perfect certain materials. Islamic and European alchemists developed a structure of basic laboratory techniques and theory, some of which are still in use today.

You can find a recipe for the Philosopher's Stone in the Ripley Scroll. The Scroll is six metres long and full of symbols and beautiful imagery.

You can see more of the Ripley Scroll here:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/exploring-the-ripley-scroll/sgLCNEuJqIJzLg>

Although in today's world we know The Philosopher's Stone cannot be created why do you think preserving the scroll is important?

What did alchemists of the time believe they needed to create the Philosopher's Stone?