

Case History: Thomas Midgley and Tetraethyl Lead

Name _____

[The Poisoner's Handbook](#)

Our section starts at 41:50. Start there and stop at 52:30. Yep, 11 minutes.

1. What specific symptoms in 1924 were exhibited by employees at the Elizabeth, NJ lead plant?
2. Why was tetraethyl lead added to gasoline?
3. The two companies promoting TEL were _____ & _____
4. Why was the product called "ethyl" instead of "lead"?
5. If the dangers of lead were known, why did we mine, refine, and burn so much of it?
6. The lead in the victims concentrated in the tissues of the _____
7. When Gettler and Norris revealed their findings, what did New York City, NJ, & Philadelphia do?
8. Explain what president Coolidge did and hypothesize why he made his particular decision.

Stop at 52:30. Read the lead parts of this [Midgley link](#) & about [TEL link on Wikipedia](#).

9. What had Thomas Midgley done to demonstrate that lead was safe? What were the results?
10. Do we still make such decisions today? Do we still have only representatives from industry on scientific panels in our government? Give an example.

Extensions

[Dangerous Elements: The Story of Lead and its Toxic Effects](#)

Want to learn a case similar to lead and the "Radium Girls"? Start video again at 1:09:15.

Really good podcast - <http://rationallyspeakingpodcast.org/show/rs-224-rick-nevin-on-the-long-term-effects-of-lead-on-crime.html>

HEALTH IMPACTS

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

TETRAETHYL LEAD

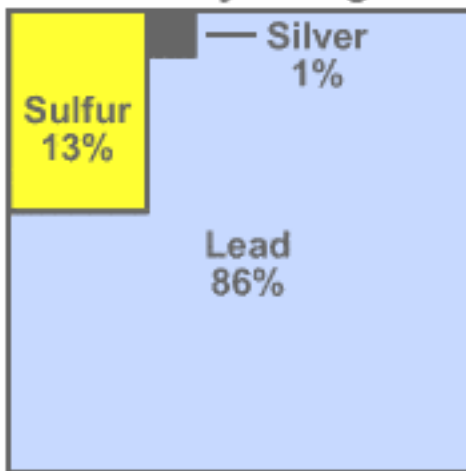
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

SOCIAL IMPACTS



<https://geology.com/minerals/galena.shtml>

Composition of Galena by Weight %



Revenue from One Ton of Galena

