

Nicolas Leblanc Encyclopedia Article

Nicolas Leblanc

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Nicolas Leblanc

1742-1806

French physician and inventor who is best known for inventing a process by which to make sodium carbonate. This material is widely used in making glass, soap, and other useful chemicals. In fact, Leblanc's process was widely used for over a century, although Leblanc did not benefit from this because his factory was seized during the French Revolution. Due to this and other problems, he committed suicide at age 64.