



Element Plutonium

[Plutonium](#), a radioactive element, was first produced and isolated at the **Berkeley Radiation Laboratory** by **Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Joseph W. Kennedy, Edwin M. McMillan, and Arthur C. Wahl in 1940.**

- They produced it by bombarding **uranium-238** with **deuterium nuclei** (alpha particles).
- Plutonium production was essential for the **Manhattan Project** (a top-secret program to make the first atomic bombs during World War II).
- Its basic chemistry is closely related to uranium.
- **Plutonium-239**, an isotope of plutonium, could undergo fission and be used as fuel for an **atomic bomb**.
- **Plutonium** is also a key material in the development of nuclear power. |

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