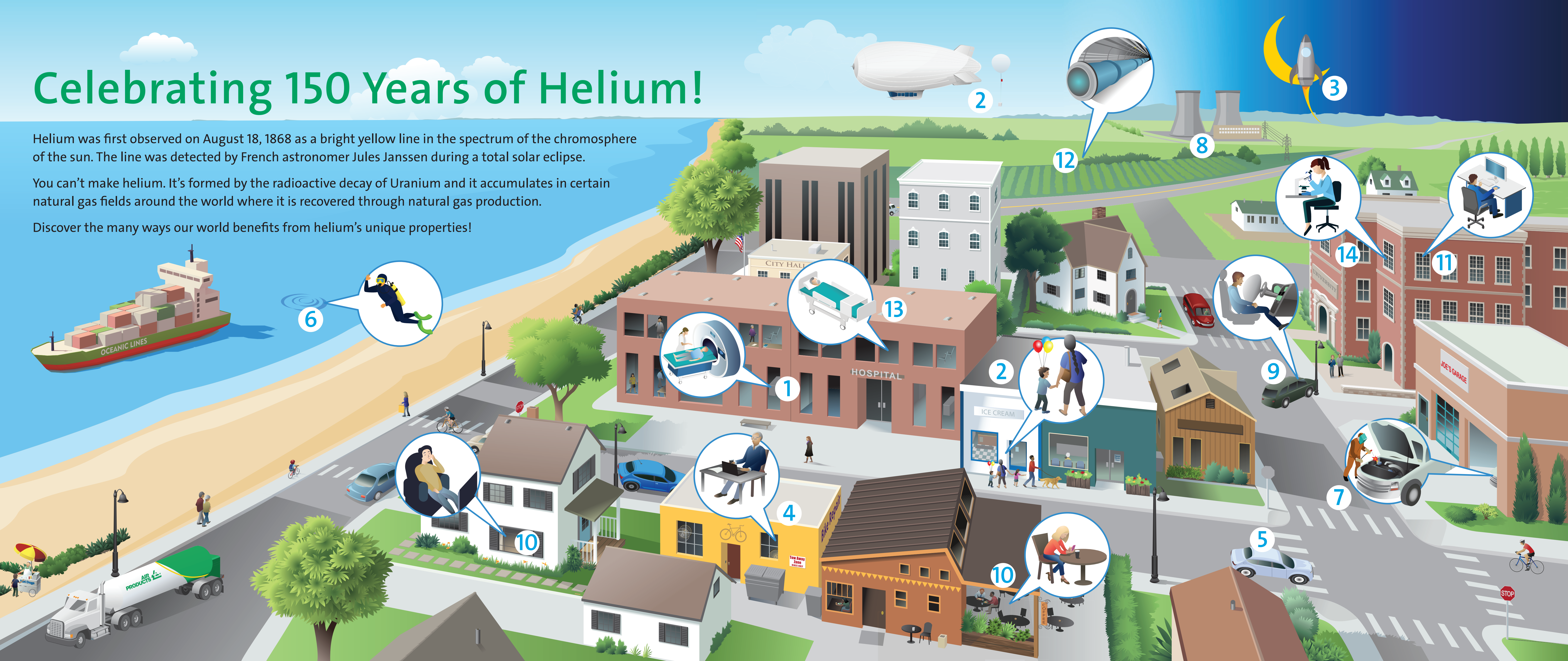


Celebrating 150 Years of Helium!

Helium was first observed on August 18, 1868 as a bright yellow line in the spectrum of the chromosphere of the sun. The line was detected by French astronomer Jules Janssen during a total solar eclipse.

You can't make helium. It's formed by the radioactive decay of Uranium and it accumulates in certain natural gas fields around the world where it is recovered through natural gas production.

Discover the many ways our world benefits from helium's unique properties!



1 MRI

Liquid helium is the coldest substance on earth (-452°F) and is used to keep the electrical coils in MRIs (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) cold, enabling powerful images of your body to help doctors diagnose and treat diseases or injuries.

2 Balloons and Blimps

Gaseous helium is lighter than air and nonflammable, enabling it to safely lift balloons and blimps into the air.

3 Rockets

Gaseous helium is used as a "push gas" to load oxygen and hydrogen fuel into space rockets.

4 High Speed Internet

During the fiber optic manufacturing process, helium is used to cool the cables that enable high speed internet.

5 Leak Detection

Helium is the second smallest element, which makes it ideal for detecting leaks when pressure testing pipelines, automotive air conditioners, and gas tanks.

6 Diving Gases

A mix of helium and oxygen is used by deep-water divers to allow them to dive deeper and stay down longer, minimizing the risk of narcosis.

7 Welding Gases

Helium mixtures create ideal welding atmospheres that prevent hot metals from oxidizing and other negative reactions that may occur at high temperatures.

8 Nuclear Reactors

Helium is used as a heat-transfer medium in some gas-cooled nuclear reactors.

9 Airbags

High pressure helium is used to safely inflate airbags in automobiles during an accident, helping to prevent serious injury or even save your life.

10 Cell Phones, TVs, PCs & Tablets

Helium is used in semiconductor manufacturing processes, including specialized cooling, plasma etching, and deposition for computer chips.

11 Hard Drives

Helium is less dense than air and when used in computer hard drives, it creates less drag and turbulence, which improves speed and storage while using less power.

12 Super Collider

Liquid helium is used to cool the 17-mile ring of superconducting magnets inside the Large Hadron Collider used for research.

13 Medical

Helium is combined with oxygen to treat asthma, emphysema and other respiratory problems in the lungs.

14 Microscopes

Helium is used in high tech microscopes to produce higher resolution images.

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