Fausto D'elhuyar & JUAN JOSé D'Elhuyar Encyclopedia Article

Fausto D'elhuyar & JUAN JOSé D'Elhuyar

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1755-1833

Spanish chemists who first isolated the element tungsten in 1783. The brothers, who had studied mineralogy, were analyzing a mineral called wolframite when they made their discovery. For this reason, tungsten is sometimes called wolfram, and its chemical symbol is *W*. The brothers later went to South America to supervise the Spanish mining industry. Today, tungsten is used to produce very hard steels.