

Chapitre 10. Radioactivité et réactions nucléaires

Documents sur site pour l'analyse et la synthèse de documents

29 ANALYSE ET SYNTHÈSE DE DOCUMENTS

✚ Perception de la radioactivité

Compétences S'approprier, analyser, communiquer.

Doc.1 Étiquettes de produits en vogue dans les années 1920



<http://histoireda.unblog.fr/2011/03/25/pouvoir-miraculeux-de-la-radioactivite/>

Doc. 2 Article sur les Radium Girls

At the beginning of the 20th century a group of young women workers who, while licking their brushes to make a fine point, applied radium-laden paint to the faces of watches and instruments, began to sicken, and in many cases to die.

Believing that their work was making them ill, the girls turned to their doctors, then to state health and labor departments, but received little help. Finally they turned to the Consumers League [...].

[...] Clark's *Radium Girls* tells the story of how these young women workers refused to be passive victims. [...] They fought to make the companies take responsibility for the illness and to make the government regulate issues of workers' health.

Although the dial painters were just a small group of women workers -between 1917 and 1927 only about 2000 altogether- their plight, Clark argues, became an excellent example of the failures of the philosophy of [...] corporate liberalism, where the state's role was to remain a "neutral partner". In this case, government investigators and scientific experts, beholden to the corporations, were either unresponsive or hostile to the pleas of these suffering women. [...]

[...] Claudia Clark describes the intricate scientific and political process by which radium evolved from being viewed as a wonderfully medicinal element to being recognized as a dangerous toxic material and a cause of occupational disease.

Doc. 3 Manifestation contre le nucléaire



Il est possible de trouver une interview de Jean-Marc Cosset, auteur de *Radium Girl* sur Internet en tapant les mots-clés « interview », « Jean-Marc Cosset » et « Radium Girl » dans un moteur de recherche.