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History of science coalesced only gradually as a recognizable discipline in the twentieth century, with its own distinctive program of training, institutions (journals, professional societies, university positions), and scholarly standards. From: International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2001. Related terms: Social Sciences. The history of science has included several interesting periods where it was unclear whether a key concept would be redefined, replaced, or declared not to exist. For instance, more than a century ago Lavoisier convinced the scientific community that phlogiston did not exist and that the phenomena phlogiston was meant to explain were better accounted for by his new concept called \( \text{\textcopyright} \) oxygen. History of science, the development of science over time.