**Otto Wichterle**

lived 1913 - 1998, his birthplace was Czech Republic – Prostějov

was world-famous Czech scientist and inventor

was the founder of macromolecular organic chemistry

worked on polymers research and discovered an artificial polyamide fiber - silon

invented soft hydrogel contact lenses

**Did you know that ...**

is the author of 150 inventions and patents

was the chairman of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences

was a member of the Czechoslovak junior tennis team

in 1993, an asteroid was named after him

**Experiments**

**Mysterious inscriptions** - large closed test tube filled with water, mysterious inscriptions

Place a test tube full of water over the paper with mysterious inscriptions. Some of the inscriptions remain legible and unchanged, some of the inscriptions flip upside down. The test tube with water acts as a positive lens in a position that produces an inverted image. All the inscriptions have been inverted, only some letters are axially symmetrical and therefore they appear as not inverted.

**Pictures behind glasses** - glasses of various shapes, water, colour images

Put colourful pictures behind the glasses filled with water and watch them through the glasses. The water in the glass changes the direction of light rays and the cylindrical shape of the glass causes the system to function as a water lens, so we see a distorted and inverted image.

**Polymers in action** - ZIP bag, water, sharpened pencils

Close the bag with some water in, and pierce it with a sharp pencil. Water will not leak. The chains of polymer molecules, from which the bag is made, are long and flexible and they make the space around the pencil waterproof.