Contents

Approximate Timeline for Developments in Materials			
1		uction: The Importance of Materials for entury Economies	1
		·	1
	1.1	Introduction The significance of surfaces on material properties	2
	1.2 1.3	The 20th century: A golden age for synthetic polymers	3
	1.3	The 21st century: A golden age for natural polymers?	4
	1.5	From candy floss (cotton candy) to composites	4
	1.6	Biopharmaceuticals: From small to large molecules	5
	1.7	•	6
	1.8		6
	1.9	-	7
	1.10		8
	1.11	Renewable materials	8
	1.12	The importance of microstructure	. 9
	1.13	Lighting technology	10
	1.14	Sugars and foods	10
	1.15	Intellectual property and materials	10
	1.16	Summary	11
	1.17	Further reading	11
2	Candy	Floss, Cellulose, Sugars and Foods	13
	2.1	Introduction	13
	2.2	Cellulose	13
	2.3	Candy floss (cotton candy)	15
	2.4	Sugars and carbohydrates	15
	2.5	Storage of sugar in the body	17
	2.6	Summary	18
	2.7	Further reading	19
3	Chips with Everything		21
	3.1	Introduction	21
	3.2	Cat's whisker, vacuum tubes and relays	21
	3.3	Computability and the foundations of digital computers	22
	3.4	Transistors	23
	3.5	Silicon chips	25
	3.6	Moore's Law	27

x Contents

	3.7	Directed self-assembly of block copolymers	27
	3.8	Quantum computing	27
	3.9	DNA computer	28
	3.10	Summary	28
	3.11	Further reading	29
4	Polym	ners	31
	4.1	Introduction	31
	4.2	Polymers	31
	4.3	Vulcanisation of rubber	32
	4.4	Polymers in the 20th century	33
		Polymers in the 21st century	39
		Silicon-based polymers	40
		Polyphosphazenes	40
		Summary	40
	4.9	Further reading	41
5	Health	hcare: The Benefits of Materials	43
	5.1	Introduction	43
	5.2	Lasers in medicine and surgery	43
	5.3	Magnetic resonance imaging	44
	5.4	Biopharmaceuticals	45
		Drug delivery	47
		Nanotechnology and healthcare	4 7
		Coronary stents	48
	5.8	Bioprinting	49
	5.9	1	50
	5.10	Hydrogels	50
	5.11		50
		The search for antimicrobial agents	51
		Summary	51
	5.14	Further reading	52
6	Let There Be Lights		53
	6.1		53
		Light-emitting diodes	53
		Quantum dots	55
	6.4	1 2	57
	6.5		58
	6.6	•	59
	6.7	Further reading	60

			Contents	хi
7	Ener	gy Supplies for the 21st century		61
•	7.1	Introduction		61
		Global electricity consumption		62
		Nuclear power		62
		Solar cells		64
		Wind energy		65
		Geothermal energy		65
		Tidal energy		65
		Hydroelectric power		66
		Carbon capture		66
		Lithium-ion batteries		67
		Fuel cells		68
		Summary		69
		Further reading		69
8	The ?	Preparation of Materials		71
	8.1	Introduction		71
	8.2	Critical materials		71
	8.3	Pure materials		72
	8.4	Fine powders		73
	8.5	Thin films in the semiconductor industry		73
	8.6	Synthetic polymers		76
	8.7	Polymerase chain reaction		76
	8.8	Fibres		77
	8.9	Summary		78
	8.10	Further reading		79
9	Disruptive Technologies			81
	9.1	Introduction		81
	9.2	Disruptive technologies		82
		Wonder materials		82
		Summary		84
	9.5	Further reading		84
10	The l	Importance of Microstructure on Material Properties		87
	10.1	Introduction		87
	10.2	Microstructure: a definition		87
	10.3	Toughness		87
	10.4	Composite materials		88
	10.5	Opals, butterflies and photonic crystals		89
	10.6	Traditional ceramics		90
		Metamaterials		90
	10.8	1 3 3		90
	10.9	DNA		91

xii Contents

	10.10	Optical properties	91
	10.11	Summary	91
	10.12	Further reading	92
11	Pater	nts, Patent Trolls and Intellectual Property	93
	11.1	Introduction	93
	11.2	Patents	93
	11.3	Patents and intellectual property	95
	11.4	Patents as a source of technical information	96
	11.5	Summary	97
	11.6	Further reading	9 7
12	Every	yday Products: The Role of Materials	99
	12.1	Introduction	99
	12.2	Sunscreens	99
	12.3	Washing-up liquids and surfactants	100
	12.4	Cosmetics	101
	12.5	Disposable nappies (diapers): the role of hydrogels	101
		Hard candy (boiled sweets) and fudge: the role of microstructure	102
	12.7	Liquid crystal thermometers	103
	12.8	3	103
	12.9	•	103
		Decaffeinated coffee	104
	12.11	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	105
	12.12	Stainless steel	105
		Summary	106
	12.14	Further reading	106
13	Conc	lusions	107
		Introduction	107
		The commercial exploitation of materials	107
	13.3		108
	13.4	The age of specialist alloys	109
	13.5	The Genomic Age?	109
	13.6	The Polymer Age	110
	13.7		110
	13.8	The role of international conflicts and wars	111
	13.9	3	111
	13.10	Further reading	112
Gl	ossary	: Listing of 500 materials in alphabetical order	113
Αį	pendi	x 1: Suggestions for Further Reading	304
Aţ	pendi	x 2: Selected Patent Documents Referred to in the Text	308
In	dex		313