

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 73 (2007)  
**Heft:** [6]  
  
**Rubrik:** Hello children : where does helium come from?

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 23.12.2024

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

If undelivered, please return to:

The Secretary of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc)  
Silvia Schuler  
Auroa Road  
RD 28  
Manaia

New Zealand  
Permit No. 93966



(Registered at the GPO Wellington as a Magazine)

Monthly Publication of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc)

# HELLO CHILDREN!

## Where does helium come from?



On the Earth, helium comes from natural gas deposits in the atmosphere. The atmosphere contains about 5 parts of helium per million parts of air. Helium is a lightweight gas and chemical element and makes up only a small fraction of the Earth's matter. But it is one of the most common elements in the universe. The Sun and other stars are made mostly of helium and hydrogen. The energy of these stars is produced when hydrogen atoms join together to form helium atoms.

Because helium is so light, it constantly escapes from the atmosphere and drifts into space. But the lost helium is replaced by radioactive minerals that shoot out alpha particles. Helium is also used to fill scientific balloons. The balloons rise to high altitudes, because helium is lighter than air. In air, helium has 92 per cent of the lifting ability of hydrogen. It is safer than hydrogen because it will not burn, as hydrogen will.



### FACT FILE

Divers sometimes breathe a mixture of helium and oxygen to avoid a painful illness called nitrogen narcosis. Nitrogen narcosis usually occurs at depths below 30 metres (100 feet).



"Welcome to SWISS Business. Please take a bed."

Stretch out in your spacious lie-flat seat for the ultimate in sleeping comfort. And enjoy the extra legroom and our attentive service.

To find out what more SWISS has in store for the discerning traveller call 09 977 2388, your travel agent or visit [swiss.com](http://swiss.com)



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

[swiss.com](http://swiss.com)