# The Simplest Form of Matter: Elements of the Periodic Table 

Return to Table of Contents

## The Atomic Theory

The number of protons in an atom determines which element it is. In the 1800's scientists discovered different elements have different properties because they have different numbers of protons and electrons.


Element: Fluorine


Properties: silvery reactive metal,solid at room temperature

Properties: pale yellow, reactive gas at room temperature

## The First Periodic Table of Elements

In the mid-1800s, a Russian chemist named DmitriMendeleev created his own version of the periodic table of elements by arranging the elements based on their properties, or characteristics.

He noticed that in doing this, there was a noticeable pattern in the atomic mass or atomic weight of the elements.


## Modern Periodic Table of Elements

Mendeleev's format of the periodic table was used until around 1913_At this time Henry Moselev, a British scientist, discovered the way to measure the number of protons in an element.

Having this number made it easier to describe the atoms of each element. Soon after, the table was rearranged using this amount, known as an element's atomic number .

rmane


## The Periodic Table of Elements

The table below lists every known element in the universe. They are listed left to right based on their atomic number.

Group


- Lanthanides
* Actinides


Click here for a printable Periodic Table.


## Reading the Periodic Table


${ }^{1}$ Atomic Number is the number of protons in one atom of the element.
${ }^{2}$ Element Symbol is a 1- or 2-letter symbol that represents the element.
${ }^{3}$ Atomic mass is the average combined number of protons and neutrons.

## Most Common Elements in the Galaxy



## How is the Table Arranged?

The current table is arranged into seven horizontal rowscalled periods .


The period number tells you the number of layers there are in the atom's electron shell.

## How is the Table Arranged?

The table is also arranged in 18 vertical columns calledgroups that are numbered from left to right.


Because the pattern of properties repeats in every period, the elements in each group have similar characteristics.


The Group number tells you the number of electrons in the atom's outermost shell. Ex: Elements in Group 17 have 7 electrons in their outer shells. (For Groups 13-18, you subtract "10")

13 The periodic table is arranged in horizontal rows called:

A Columns
B Groups
C Periods

## 14 The current periodic table is arranged from left to right according to increasing atomic mass.

True
False


