

## A FAST-PACED CARD GAME ABOUT THE ELEMENTS

<u>You will need</u>: Scissors, photocopies of the pattern pages on white card stock, colored pencils if you would like the students to color the cards, and a copy of the Periodic Table for each student

## <u>Set up</u>

Cut apart the cards. If you would like the students to add color to the cards, provide colored pencils and some extra coloring time.

## How to play

The object of the game is to be the first player to collect six cards.

Decide which player will be the "caller." This player must read from the list below instead of being one of the card players. If an adult is supervising the game, this is the obvious adult job. An adult caller may want to choose particular attributes from the list below to emphasize facts recently learned. It is easiest to go down the list in order, but the caller need not go in order, and may also use items from the list more than once (as long as the caller is being fair and is not purposely aiming to benefit any one card player, of course!) Feel free to add your own ideas to the list given below!

Each card player receives five cards, which he places face up in front of him. The rest of the cards go face down in a draw pile. The caller reads one of the attributes from the list (the first on the list if they are going in order). Each player looks at his five cards to see if he has a card that has that attribute. If he does, he slaps his hand down on the card. The caller looks to see who is the first player to slap his hand down. That player then shows the card under his hand. If the caller agrees that this card qualifies, then the player may remove that card from the line up and put it face down into a "keeper" pile. Then he draws a card from the draw pile to replace that card and restore him to five cards, face up.

The caller then reads off another attribute from the list and the game continues in this manner until one player has six cards in his "keeper" pile. If no player has a card that qualifies, the caller simply goes on to the next one on the list.

If you reach the end of the list, just start over at the beginning again.

Game takes 5-20 minutes to play. Often there is time to play several games in a row. You can switch callers between games if you want to.

Note: Some of these clues require the students to look at the atomic weight, or "mass," of the element. (Weight and mass are not really the same thing, but in this case the words can be used interchangeably, so we won't go into the difference between them. Kids seem to prefer "weight" to "mass.") The atomic mass is listed in smaller print right under the atomic number. It is basically the number of protons and neutrons added together. Electrons are so small they add almost nothing to the total mass. The students may notice that some of the atomic masses are decimal numbers, instead of whole numbers, and they may wonder if this means that there can be fractional pieces of protons and neutrons. The reason for these decimal numbers is that scientists measured many atoms, then took a mathematical average. Since a small percentage of atoms have one or two more (or less) neutrons, the average comes out to a decimal number. For example, if you weigh ten atoms of neon and get these results: 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 21, 21, then take the average, you will get 20.2. This is the atomic mass listed for neon. Most neon atoms have 10 protons and 10 neutrons, but once in a while you will meet a neon atom with 10 protons and 11 neutrons.

## QUICK SIX CLUES

The clues are in groups of ten just to make them easier to read (so you don't lose your place so easily).

Number has a 3 in it Name has two syllables Used in lasers Has something to do with the color green Named after someplace in Scandinavia Has something to do with teeth Starts with the letter C Number has a 5 in it Name has something to do with color Used to make tools of some kind

Is named after a city (not a country) Name has three syllables Is used to make jewelry Named after a country Used for something that burns Named after something in the solar system Number has a 7 in it Is named after a country (not a city) Used in fireworks Has something to do with bones

Name starts with a vowel Gemstones are made from it Used in steel production Used to repair the human body Used in light bulbs Is found as a gas in the air around us Has something to do with eyes Conducts electricity Last three letters of the name are I-U-M Name is from a Latin word

Is used in batteries or fuel Has something to do with glass First letter of name does not match first letter of the symbol Is found in some kind of gemstone Name begins with the letter S Name comes from a chemical compound Name starts with the "K" sound (C or K) Is used in magnets of any kind Used in something that makes light Used to make coins

Contains one of these letters: X, Y, or Z Name has four syllables Number has a 1 in it Does not bond with any other element Used in glass Quick Six clues page 2

Name comes from a compound Has an atomic number less than that of tin Has the word "light" or "lights" in the description Name ends with –ine Has an atomic number between 50 and 60

Atomic number has a 3 in it Name has two syllables Used in lasers Has something to do with the color green Named after someplace in Scandinavia Has something to do with teeth Named after a Greek god or goddess Is a transition metal Starts with the letter C Is in the same row as gold on the Periodic Table

Used in some kind of engine Atomic number has a 5 in it Used to make tools of some kind Is named after a city (not a country) Is an alkali earth metal Is radioactive Name has three syllables Is used to make jewelry Used for something that burns Is a non-metal

Atomic mass is less than 30 Named after something in the solar system Atomic number has a 7 in it Is on the edge of the Periodic Table Atomic mass is between 50 and 70 Named after Ytterby, Sweden Is a true metal (or a semi-metal, if you have those labeled) Is named after a country (not a city) Used in fireworks Atomic number has three digits

Found in the sands of Florida and California Is in the actinide series Has something to do with bones Name starts with a vowel Is in the same row as molybdenum on the Periodic Table Gemstones are made from it Named after a famous scientist Has an atomic number greater than that of tungsten Used to color glass Name has four syllables Quick Six clues page 3

Atomic number has a 0 in it Used in steel production Used to repair the human body in some way Is in the same column as helium on the Periodic Table Used in light bulbs Atomic mass is greater than 100 Is found as a gas in the air around us Has something to do with eyes Atomic number has a 9 in it Is in the lanthanide series

Conducts electricity Last three letters of the name are I U M Is in the same row as iron on the Periodic Table Has no commercial or scientific use Is made in nuclear reactors Name is from a Latin word First letter of name does not match first letter of the symbol The atomic mass listed on the card is exactly double the atomic number Name comes from a Greek word or words Used in TVs

Is in the third row of the periodic table Name starts with the letter *u* Used for coins Unstable; only exists for a short time Used in catalytic converters Has a *y* in its name Is in the third column of the periodic table Used in lights Made in nuclear reactors Name comes from a German word or words

All the digits of the atomic number are the same Used in batteries Name has something to do with a color The digits of its atomic number add up to 10 Used in magnets Has an *x* in its name Has an atomic number greater than 90 Name starts with the letter *m* Used as a scavenger in vacuum tubes Has more than 4 vowels in its name (*y* is a vowel)

Is in the first column of the periodic table Name ends in "–on" Name starts with the letter *s* Has an atomic mass less than 10 Name has less than 5 letters The sum of the atomic number and atomic mass is between 100 and 200

























