Science Fables

The Secret Map of the Elements

Story Quiz

This quiz checks what you learned about the periodic table — groups, periods, atomic number, and types of elements.

1. How are elements arranged in the modern periodic table?

A. By increasing atomic number
B. By decreasing atomic mass
C. Alphabetically by element name
D. By color

2. What are the horizontal rows of the periodic table called?

A. Groups
B. Periods
C. Families
D. Blocks

3. What are the vertical columns of the periodic table called?

A. Periods
B. Groups
C. Layers
D. Series

4. What does an element's atomic number tell us?

A. The number of protons
B. The number of neutrons
C. The average atomic mass
D. The number of electron shells

5. Which type of element is usually shiny and a good conductor of heat and electricity?

A. Metal
B. Nonmetal
C. Metalloid
D. Noble gas

Answer Key

1. A — By increasing atomic number

In the modern periodic table, elements are arranged by increasing atomic number.

2. B — Periods

Horizontal rows of the periodic table are called periods.

3. B — Groups

Vertical columns of the periodic table are called groups.

4. A — The number of protons

Atomic number tells us the number of protons in an atom.

5. A — Metal

Metals are usually shiny and good conductors of heat and electricity.