Science Fables

The Tiny Building Blocks

Story Quiz

This quiz checks what you learned about atoms, molecules, and compounds — the tiny building blocks of everything around us.

1. What is an atom?

A. Two or more elements mixed together
B. The smallest unit of an element that retains its properties
C. A substance made of different molecules
D. Two or more atoms bonded together

2. Which of the following is an element?

A. Water (H_2O)
B. Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
C. Gold (Au)
D. Salt (NaCl)

3. What is a molecule?

A. Two or more atoms chemically bonded together
B. A substance made of only different elements
C. A single atom
D. Two substances physically mixed together

4. Which of the following is a molecule but NOT a compound?

A. Water (H_2O)
B. Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
C. Salt (NaCl)
D. Oxygen gas (O_2)

5. Why is water (H_2O) both a molecule and a compound?

A. It contains only oxygen atoms
B. It contains hydrogen and oxygen atoms chemically bonded together
C. It contains only one atom
D. It is a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen

Answer Key

1. B — The smallest unit of an element that retains its properties

An atom is the smallest unit of an element that retains its properties.

2. C — Gold (Au)

Gold (Au) is an element. Water, carbon dioxide, and salt are compounds.

3. A — Two or more atoms chemically bonded together

A molecule is two or more atoms chemically bonded together.

4. D — Oxygen gas (O_2)

Oxygen gas (O_2) is a molecule made of the same element, so it is not a compound.

5. B — It contains hydrogen and oxygen atoms chemically bonded together

Water is both a molecule and a compound because it contains hydrogen and oxygen atoms chemically bonded together.