

What's My Element?

Game Instructions (for two players)

Objective

The object of the game is to be the first to guess an opponent's mystery element.

Materials

- What's My Element? playing cards, set of 24 for each player
- Pen or pencil
- What's My Element? Master Element List, one per player
- Periodic table (optional)

Procedure

Before playing the game, answer the *Pre-Activity Questions* on the What's My Element? Worksheet. Refer to the directions below for specific instructions for the game. Be sure to return all cards according to the teacher's instructions.

The Play

- Both players shuffle their respective decks and place them face down on the table.
 - The players pick the top card from their decks. Whoever picks the element with the lower atomic number goes first. This card is placed back into the deck and the deck is reshuffled.
 - The players pick a card at random from their respective decks, but do not show their cards to their opponents.
 - The chosen element is marked with an X or checkmark in the box as the player's mystery element for Round 1 on the Master Elements List (Figure 1). This list is then hidden from the opponent.
 - The chosen mystery element card is placed back in the deck and the cards are once again mixed.
 - The complete deck is spread out face up in front of each player. *Note:* Players may wish to place the cards in order of atomic number or arrange them in groups as they would be found on the periodic table.
 - The first player asks a question regarding the opponent's mystery element that can be answered by a "yes" or a "no."
 - After the opponent answers the question, the first player may be able to eliminate one or more element playing cards. These cards are flipped over so they are facing down (see *Example* below). The first player's turn is then over.
- Example*
 Player 1: *Is your element a metal?*
 Player 2: *No*
 Player 1 turns over all metal element playing cards (3–4, 11–13, 19–20, and 26–30). Only nonmetal and metalloid element cards are now face up.
- The second player follows steps 7–8.
 - Play continues in the same manner until a player is ready to guess the mystery element.

Guessing the Mystery Element

When a player is ready to guess the mystery element, the guess is made at the beginning of a turn. The specific question is asked, "Is your element _____?" If the answer is yes, the opponent reveals the Master Element List with the marked element and the player who guessed correctly wins the round.

Penalty for an Incorrect Guess

If a player asks, "Is your element _____?" and the answer is no, the player who guessed incorrectly loses a turn and the opponent gets to ask two questions in a row. The game continues as before until one player correctly guesses the mystery element. If it is determined that during the round a player answered a question incorrectly, that player forfeits the round.

Championship Play

If a series of games is desired, repeat the play starting with step 3, allowing the losing player to go first. Use the Master Element List to mark the chosen mystery element for subsequent rounds. The first player to win five rounds is the Champion!

What's My Element?

Master Element List

Round	1	2	3
Hydrogen			
Helium			
Lithium			
Beryllium			
Boron			
Carbon			
Nitrogen			
Oxygen			
Fluorine	X		
Neon			
Sodium			
Magnesium			
Aluminum			
Silicon			
Phosphorus			
Sulfur			
Chlorine			
Argon			
Potassium			
Calcium			
Iron			
Cobalt			
Nickel			
Copper			

Figure 1.

What's My Element?

Master Element List

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hydrogen										
Helium										
Lithium										
Beryllium										
Boron										
Carbon										
Nitrogen										
Oxygen										
Fluorine										
Neon										
Sodium										
Magnesium										
Aluminum										
Silicon										
Phosphorus										
Sulfur										
Chlorine										
Argon										
Potassium										
Calcium										
Iron										
Cobalt										
Nickel										
Copper										

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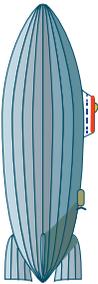
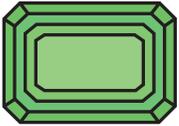
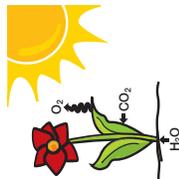
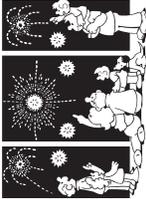
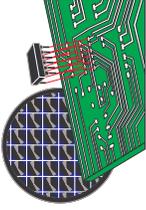
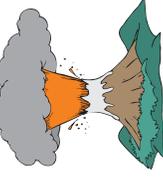
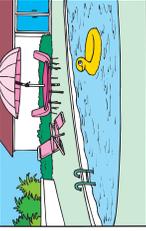
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Master Element List

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Helium										
Lithium										
Beryllium										
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Nitrogen										
Oxygen										
Fluorine										
Neon										
Sodium										
Magnesium										
Aluminum										
Silicon										
Phosphorus										
Sulfur										
Chlorine										
Argon										
Potassium										
Calcium										
Iron										
Cobalt										
Nickel										
Copper										

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What's My Element? Playing Cards

1	H		Hydrogen	2	He		Helium	3	Li		Lithium	4	Be		Beryllium	5	B		Boron	6	C		Carbon
7	N		Nitrogen	8	O		Oxygen	9	F		Fluorine	10	Ne		Neon	11	Na		Sodium	12	Mg		Magnesium
13	Al		Aluminum	14	Si		Silicon	15	P		Phosphorus	16	S		Sulfur	17	Cl		Chlorine	18	Ar		Argon
19	K		Potassium	20	Ca		Calcium	26	Fe		Iron	27	Co		Cobalt	28	Ni		Nickel	29	Cu		Copper