

The Mendeleev Lab of 1869

Problem:

Use your knowledge of the periodic table to determine the identity of each of the seven unknown elements in this activity.

- The unknown elements are from the A groups on the periodic table. Each group contains at least one unknown.
- None of the known elements serve as one of the seven unknown elements.
- No radioactive elements are used during this experiment. The relevant radioactive elements include Fr, Ra, At, and Rn.
- You may not use your textbook or other reference materials. You have been provided with enough information to determine each of the unknown elements.

Procedure:

1. Separate the unknowns and set aside.
2. Inspect the properties of the known elements.
3. Arrange the cards of the known elements in a crude representation of the periodic table.
4. Once the known elements are in place, inspect the properties of the unknowns to see where their properties would best "fit" the trends of the elements of each group.
5. In your data table, assign the proper element name to each of the unknowns. Record the symbol for each of the "unknowns" in your data table.

Unknown	Identity	Evidence?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

1. What trend in size of the atom do you see as you move across a period?

2. What trend in size of the atom do you see as you move down a group?

3. What trend in ionization energy do you see as you move across a period?

4. What trend in ionization energy do you see as you move down a group?

Li

Atomic number 3
 Physical State solid
 Density 0.534 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 180°C
 Color silver
 Reactivity very reactive
 Ionization energy 5.392

**Cl**

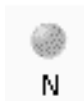
Atomic number 17
 Physical State gas
 Density 0.00321 g/cm³
 Conductivity very poor
 Melting Point -101°C
 Color greenish yellow
 Reactivity very reactive
 Ionization energy 12.967

**Se**

Atomic number 34
 Physical State solid
 Density 4.81 g/cm³
 Conductivity semi-
 Melting Point 221 °C
 Color gray/red/black
 Ionization energy 9.752

**N**

Atomic number 7
 Physical State gas
 Density 0.00125 g/cm³
 Conductivity poor
 Melting Point -210°C
 Color colorless
 Ionization energy 14.534

**He**

Atomic number 2
 Physical State gas
 Density 0.00018 g/cm³
 Conductivity very poor
 Melting Point -272°C
 Color colorless
 Reactivity almost none
 Ionization energy 24.587

**Na**

Atomic number 11
 Physical State solid
 Density 0.971 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 98°C
 Color silver
 Reactivity very reactive
 Ionization energy 5.139

**C**

Atomic number 6
 Physical State solid
 Density 2.10 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 3550°C
 Color black
 Ionization energy 11.26

**Ca**

Atomic number 20
 Physical State solid
 Density 1.57 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 845°C
 Color silvery white
 Reactivity reactive
 Ionization energy 6.113

**Be**

Atomic number 4
 Physical State solid
 Density 1.85 g/cm³
 Conductivity excellent
 Melting Point 1287°C
 Color gray
 Reactivity reactive
 Ionization energy 9.322

**Ne**

Atomic number 10
 Physical State gas
 Density 0.00090 g/cm³
 Conductivity very poor
 Melting Point -249°C
 Color colorless
 Reactivity almost none
 Ionization energy 21.564

**Br**

Atomic number 35
 Physical State gas
 Density 3.12 g/cm³
 Conductivity very poor
 Melting Point -7.2°C
 Color reddish brown
 Reactivity very reactive
 Ionization energy 11.814

**Sn**

Atomic number 50
 Physical State solid
 Density 7.31 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 232°C
 Color silver
 Ionization energy 7.344



In

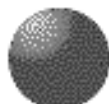
Atomic number 49
 Physical State solid
 Density 7.31 g/cm³
 Conductivity medium
 Melting Point 157°C
 Color silvery white
 Ionization energy 5.786



In

Ba

Atomic number 56
 Physical State solid
 Density 3.6 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 710°C
 Color silvery white
 Reactivity reactive



Ba

K

Atomic number 19
 Physical State solid
 Density 0.86 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 63°C
 Color silver
 Reactivity very reactive
 Ionization energy 4.341



K

Ar

Atomic number 18
 Physical State gas
 Density 0.00178 g/cm³
 Conductivity very poor
 Melting Point -189.2°C
 Color colorless
 Reactivity almost none
 Ionization energy 15.759



Ar

Ga

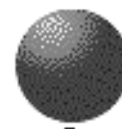
Atomic number 31
 Physical State solid
 Density 5.904 g/cm³
 Conductivity medium
 Melting Point 30°C
 Color silvery
 Ionization energy 5.999



Ga

Cs

Atomic number 55
 Physical State solid
 Density 1.87 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 29°C
 Color silvery white
 Reactivity very reactive



Cs

O

Atomic number 8
 Physical State gas
 Density 0.0013 g/cm³
 Conductivity poor
 Melting Point -219°C
 Color colorless
 Reactivity reactive
 Ionization energy 13.618



O

P

Atomic number 15
 Physical State solid
 Density 1.823 g/cm³
 Conductivity poor
 Melting Point 44.2 °C
 Color white
 Ionization energy 10.486



P

As

Atomic number 33
 Physical State solid
 Density 5.776 g/cm³
 Conductivity poor
 Melting Point 817 °C
 Color gray
 Ionization energy 9.81



As

Xe

Atomic number 54
 Physical State gas
 Density 0.00585 g/cm³
 Conductivity very poor
 Melting Point -119.9°C
 Color colorless
 Reactivity almost none
 Ionization energy 12.13



Xe

B

Atomic number 5
 Physical State solid
 Density 2.34 g/cm³
 Conductivity poor at r.t.
 Melting Point 2076°C
 Color brown
 Ionization energy 8.298



B

I

Atomic number 53
 Physical State solid
 Density 4.93 g/cm³
 Conductivity very poor
 Melting Point 113.5°C
 Color blue-black
 Reactivity very reactive
 Ionization energy 10.451



I

Si

Atomic number 14
 Physical State solid
 Density 2.33 g/cm³
 Conductivity intermediate
 Melting Point 1410°C
 Color gray
 Ionization energy 8.151



Si

Unknown #2

Atomic number ?
 Physical State gas
 Density 0.00170 g/cm³
 Conductivity very poor
 Melting Point -219.6°C
 Color pale yellow
 Reactivity very reactive
 Ionization energy 17.422

**Unknown #3**

Atomic number ?
 Physical State solid
 Density 1.53 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 39°C
 Color silvery white
 Reactivity very reactive
 Ionization energy 4.177

**Unknown #4**

Atomic number ?
 Physical State gas
 Density 0.00374 g/cm³
 Conductivity very poor
 Melting Point -156.6°C
 Color colorless
 Reactivity almost none
 Ionization energy 13.999

**Unknown #5**

Atomic number ?
 Physical State solid
 Density 1.96 g/cm³
 Conductivity poor
 Melting Point 115°C
 Color yellow
 Reactivity reactive
 Ionization energy 10.36

**Sr**

Atomic number 38
 Physical State solid
 Density 2.54 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 769°C
 Color silvery white
 Reactivity reactive
 Ionization energy 5.695



Sr

Unknown #7

Atomic number ?
 Physical State solid
 Density 5.32 g/cm³
 Conductivity fair to poor
 Melting Point 937°C
 Color gray
 Ionization energy 7.899

**Al**

Atomic number 13
 Physical State solid
 Density 2.7 g/cm³
 Conductivity medium
 Melting Point 303°C
 Color silvery white
 Ionization energy 5.986



Al

Unknown #1

Atomic number ?
 Physical State solid
 Density 1.74 g/cm³
 Conductivity good
 Melting Point 651°C
 Color silvery white
 Reactivity reactive
 Ionization energy 7.646

**Unknown #6**

Atomic number ?
 Physical State solid
 Density 6.69 g/cm³
 Conductivity poor
 Melting Point 631 °C
 Color bluish-white
 Ionization energy 8.641

**Tellurium**

Atomic number 52
 Physical State solid
 Density 6.24 g/cm³
 Conductivity varies
 Melting Point 450°C
 Color silvery gray
 Ionization energy 9.009



Te

Teacher's Instructions

Answers for Unknowns

1. Magnesium (Mg)
2. Fluorine (F)
3. Rubidium (Rb)
4. Krypton (Kr)
5. Sulfur (S)
6. Antimony (Sb)
7. Germanium (Ge)