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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 playerPen or pencilWhat's My Element? Master Element List, one per playerPeriodic 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

- 1. Both players shuffle their respective decks and place them face down on the table.
- 2. 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.
- 3. The players pick a card at random from their respective decks, but do not show their cards to their opponents.
- 4. 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.
- 5. The chosen mystery element card is placed back in the deck and the cards are once again mixed.
- 6. 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.
- 7. The first player asks a question regarding the opponent's mystery element that can be answered by a "yes" or a "no."
- 8. 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.

- 9. The second player follows steps 7–8.
- 10. 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!

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What's My Element?



Figure 1.

What's My Element?

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Master Element List

Hydrogen I I I I Helium I I I I I I Helium I I I I I I I Beryllium I I I I I I I Boron I I I I I I I I Boron I	Round	1	2	3	4	5	9	7	8	6	10
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Cobalt	Iron										
Nickel Conner	Cobalt										
Conner	Nickel										
	Copper										

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What's My Element?

Master Element List

Hydrogen I<	Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	10
Helium Helium I Lithium Nitroin Nitroin Nitroin Baryllium Nitrogen Nitroin Nitroin Boron Nitroin Nitroin Nitroin Nitrogen Nitroin Nitroin Nitroin Nitroin Nitroin Nitroin Nitroin Nitrogen N N N Nitrogen N N N Nitrogen N N N Nitrogen N N N Nitroin N N N Nitroin N N N Nitroin N N N Nitroin N N N Nagnesium N N N Magnesium N N N Magnesium N N N Magnesium N N N Nultur N N N Nultur	Hydrogen										
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Beryllium Image	Lithium										
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Carbon <	Boron										
Nitrogen I<	Carbon										
Oxygen <	Nitrogen										
Fluorine Fluorine <td< td=""><td>Oxygen</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td<>	Oxygen										
Neon Neon Sodium	Fluorine										
Sodium Sodium Image <	Neon										
Magnesium Magnesium Magnesium Aluminum N N N Silicon N N N Silicon N N N Phosphorus N N N Magn N N N	Sodium										
Aluminum Image: Market in the image: Market in	Magnesium										
Silicon Image: Constant of the sector of	Aluminum										
Phosphorus Image: Chlorine	Silicon										
Sulfur Sulfur Image: Chlorine	Phosphorus										
Chlorine	Sulfur										
Argon Argon Potassium Potassium Calcium Iron Iron Obalt Nickel Copper	Chlorine										
Potassium Potassium Calcium Linon Iron Sobalt Nickel Nickel Copper	Argon										
Calcium Calcium Iron Iron Obalt Iron Nickel Iron Nickel Iron Copper Iron	Potassium										
Iron Iron Cobalt Nickel Copper	Calcium										
CobaltCobaltNickelCopper	Iron										
Nickel	Cobalt										
Copper	Nickel										
	Copper										
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What's My Element? Playing Cards

