

The Difference Between Elements and Compounds

You have learned how to write the symbols for the elements. You have also learned to write symbols for a compound, which is called a formula. Remember that if there is only one element in the compound there is no subscript written. If there is more than one atom in the molecule a subscript number is placed after the element in the formula.

Directions: In the activity below you will write the chemical formula for each compound using the element symbols and the subscript numbers. Use the periodic table.

1. Rust is also called iron oxide. It has two parts iron and three parts oxygen.

Write the formula for iron oxide _____

How many elements are in this compound? _____

2. Baking soda has one part sodium, one part hydrogen, one part carbon and three parts oxygen.

Write the formula for baking soda _____

How many elements make up this compound? _____

3. Glucose is a type of sugar we find in plants. It has six parts carbon, twelve parts hydrogen and six parts oxygen.

Write the formula for glucose _____

How many elements are in this compound? _____

4. Carbon monoxide is a very deadly gas that is made by cars. It has one part carbon and one part oxygen.

Write the formula for carbon monoxide _____

How many elements are in this compound? _____

5. Methane is a gas that is made in the human body. It has one part carbon and four parts hydrogen.

Write the formula for methane _____

How many elements are in this compound? _____

6. Sand is made up of tiny crystals of silicon dioxide. It has one part silicon and two parts oxygen.

Write the formula for silicon dioxide _____

How many elements are in this compound? _____

7. Hydrogen peroxide is used to clean cuts without stinging. It has two parts hydrogen and two parts oxygen.

Write the formula for hydrogen peroxide _____

How many elements are in this compound? _____

Questions:

1. How many elements of carbon are in CO_2 ? _____

2. How do you know? _____

3. How many elements make up CO_2 ? _____

4. How do you know? _____



Materials: Element/Compound Cards

Directions: Look at the cards in the basket with your partner. Determine if the substance on each card is an element or a compound. Write the information in the chart below.

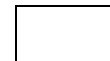
Name	Copy the Symbol or Formula	Is it an Element or a Compound	Is it a pure substance? (Yes or No)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Questions:

1. How did you determine if the substance on the card was an element or a compound? _____

2. Which substances are pure substances? _____

3. Which substances are not pure substances? _____



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Name _____ period _____

EXIT TICKET

The Difference Between Elements and Compounds

Directions: In the chart below determine if the substance is an element or compound and if it is a pure substance or not.

Substance	Element or Compound?	Pure substance? Yes/No
H		
H ₂ O		
CO ₂		
C		
O		
O ₂		

Conclusion: (elements, one, capital, compound, pure)

A _____ is a substance made up of more than _____ type of element. _____ and compounds are considered _____ substances. One way to tell if a substance is a compound is to look for more than one _____ letter.

Name _____ period _____

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