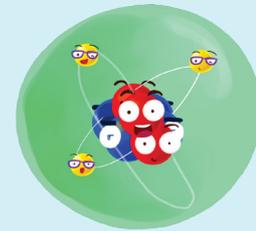


Element Matching Game



Grades: K-4

Subject: Elements,
periodic table

Skills: Reading comprehension, critical thinking,
sorting, identifying

NGSS: 2-PS1-1: Matter and Its Interactions

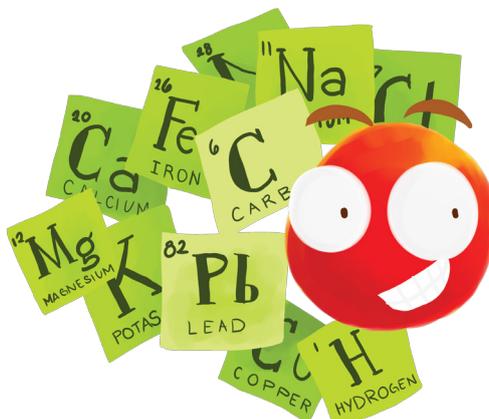
Materials: *My First Science Textbook: Atoms,*
Element Matching Worksheet (attached)

BACKGROUND

There are 118 elements on the periodic table, and some are more common in everyday life than others. The most abundant elements on Earth are **oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, and nitrogen**. These elements make up most of our mass and the mass of every other living creature on Earth. Other elements are incredibly important because they are used in everything from coins to table salt to balloons.

ACTIVITY

1. Go over the background information with students. Ask for volunteers to give you the names of elements they have heard of. *Are all of these elements similar, or are they different? Are some elements more likely to show up in the world than others? Why do they think elements are important?*
2. Hand out the Element Matching Worksheet (attached below).
3. Ask students to match the elements to their intended use in everyday life. With younger students, this activity can be modified so that the teacher is reading the descriptions and the students are guessing out loud which purpose the element serves.
4. Come together as a class and review the answers.



FUN FACT

The elements that can be found on Earth—such as silicon, which makes up some of Earth's composition—can also be found on Mars!

DISCUSSION

Certain elements can be seen with the naked eye, while others cannot. Ask students which elements they found easiest and hardest to identify and why. For the elements that they cannot see or touch (such as oxygen and helium), what might these elements have in common? The goal is to ultimately steer students toward the idea that some elements exist in a solid state, like metals, and others are more like air because they are gases.

—

Information for this activity came from interestingengineering.com and the American Chemical Society, acs.org

Name: _____

Date: _____

Worksheet: Element Matching

Draw a line connecting each element to its description.

Neon

Humans need me to survive because I make up the air you breathe.

Chlorine

I show up all the time in advertising signs. I am what makes them glow at night and get your attention.

Gold

I am used in the salt that seasons your food.

Helium

Whenever you go swimming at the pool, I am there to clean the water! I am the reason why your eyes might hurt when you open them underwater.

Copper

You can find me in a penny. I am also a great conductor of electricity, which means that electrons can flow through me very easily.

Silver

I can be found in all kinds of jewelry and kitchen utensils. I reflect light very well, so people think I am beautiful, but I also get stains and smudges a lot.

Sodium

I am used in toothpaste to help protect your teeth. There are all kinds of bacteria living in your mouth that create acid, and I make it harder for the acids to damage your teeth.

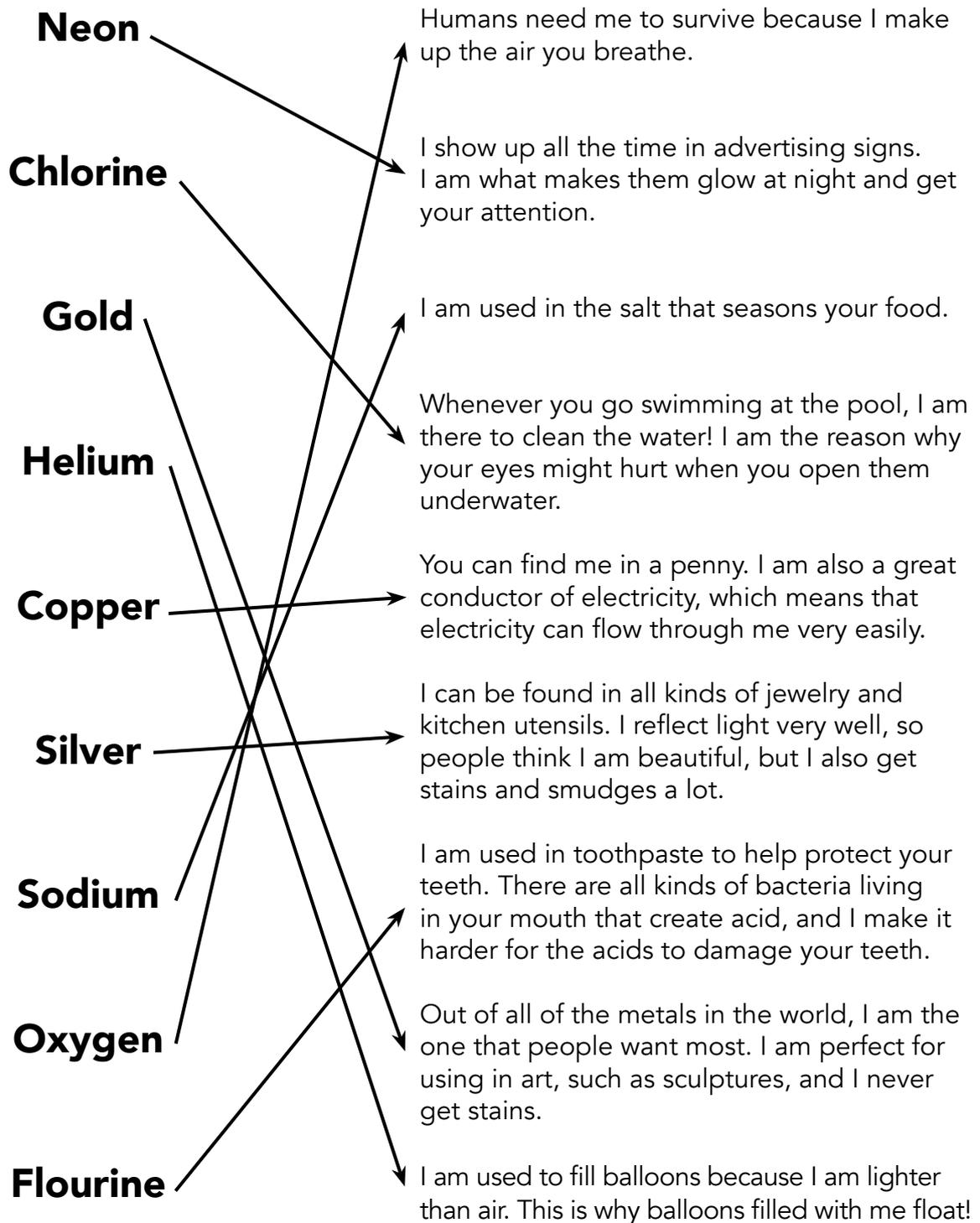
Oxygen

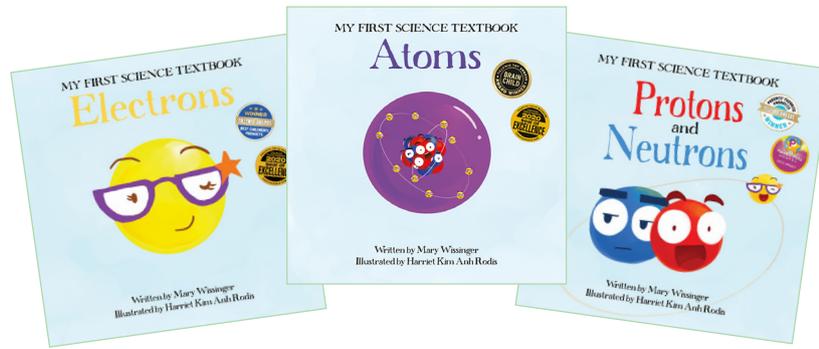
Out of all of the metals in the world, I am the one that people want most. I am perfect for using in art, such as sculptures, and I never get stains.

Flourine

I am used to fill balloons because I am lighter than air. This is why balloons filled with me float!

Answers: Element Matching

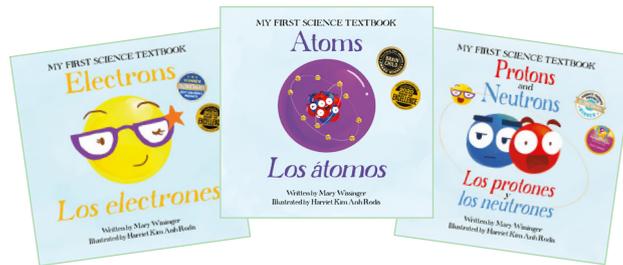




This activity is an excerpt from the Teacher's Guide to:
My First Science Textbook Series: All About Atoms Book Set

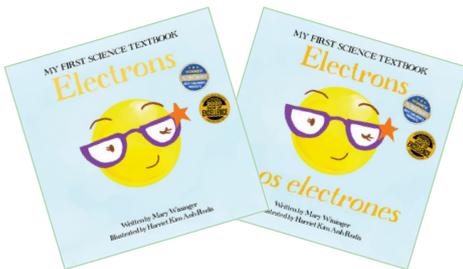
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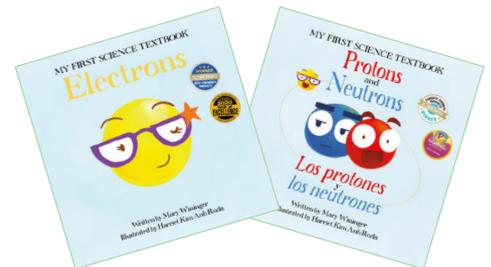
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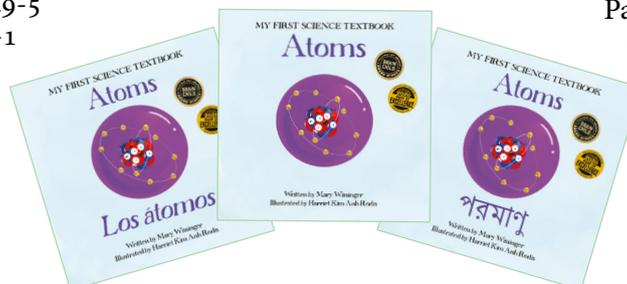
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