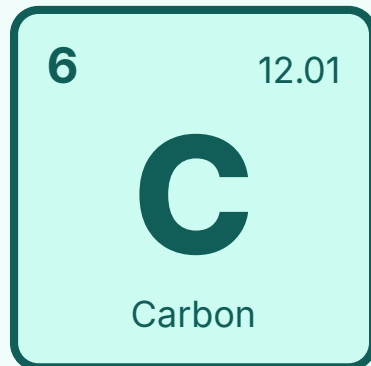


Reading the Periodic Table

7th Grade

What a box tells you, and how groups and periods are organised.

HOW TO READ ONE SQUARE



Atomic number protons — this is what makes it carbon

Symbol one or two letters, first one a capital

Name the full element name

Atomic mass protons + neutrons, averaged

HOW THE TABLE IS ORGANISED

GROUPS the columns. Same number of outer electrons → they behave alike.

PERIODS the rows. Reading left to right, each element has one more proton.

Metals sit on the left, non-metals on the right, with a staircase of metalloids between.

THE FIRST TWENTY

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 Aluminium	14 Si Silicon	15 P Phosphorus
16 S Sulfur	17 Cl Chlorine	18 Ar Argon	19 K Potassium	20 Ca Calcium

Change the number of protons and you have a different element entirely.