

Group 1

Chemistry

The alkali metals, and why reactivity increases down the group.

Reactivity with water increases down the group.

Element	With water
Lithium	Fizzes steadily
Sodium	Melts into a ball, moves rapidly
Potassium	Ignites with a lilac flame
Rubidium	Violent
Caesium	Explosive

All form M^+ ions and produce hydroxides plus hydrogen: $2M + 2H_2O \rightarrow 2MOH + H_2$.