

Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Exploration: Element Builder

Vocabulary: atom, atomic number, electron, electron dot diagram, element, energy level, ion, isotope, mass number, neutron, nucleus, periodic table, proton, radioactive, valence electrons

Prior Knowledge Questions (Do these BEFORE using the Gizmo.)

1. What are some of the different substances that make up a pizza? _____

2. What substances make up water? _____
3. What substances make up an iron pot? _____

Elements are pure substances that are made up of one kind of **atom**. Pizza is not an element because it is a mixture of many substances. Water is a pure substance, but it contains two kinds of atom: oxygen and hydrogen. Iron is an element because it is composed of one kind of atom.

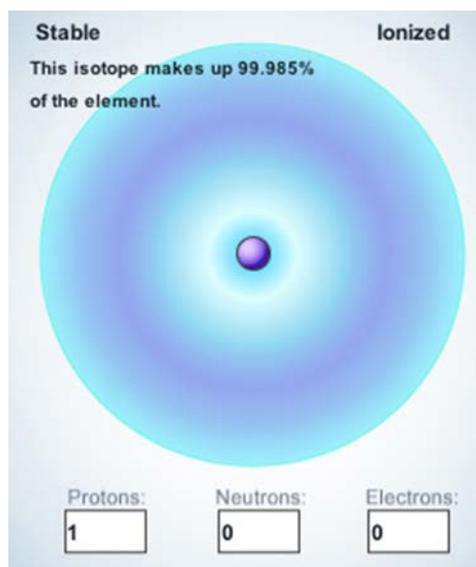
Gizmo Warm-up

Atoms are tiny particles of matter that are made up of three particles: **protons**, **neutrons**, and **electrons**. The *Element Builder* Gizmo™ shows an atom with a single proton. The proton is located in the center of the atom, called the **nucleus**.

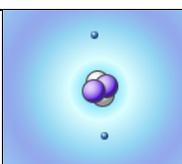
1. Use the arrow buttons (▶) to add protons, neutrons, and electrons to the atom. Press **Play** (▶).

A. Which particles are located in the nucleus?

B. Which particles orbit around the nucleus?

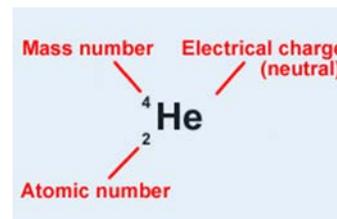


2. Turn on **Show element name**. What causes the element name to change? _____

Activity A: Subatomic particles	<u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the arrows to create an atom with two protons, two neutrons, and two electrons. • Turn on Show element name. 	
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Question: What are the properties of protons, neutrons, and electrons?

1. Observe: Turn on **Show element symbol** and **Element notation**. Three numbers surround the element symbol: the **mass number** (A), electrical charge (no number is displayed if the atom is neutral), and the **atomic number** (Z).



2. Investigate: Watch how the numbers change as you add or remove particles.

A. Which number is equal to the number of protons in the atom? _____

B. How can you calculate the number of neutrons (N) in an atom? _____

C. Which particle (proton, neutron, or electron) has a positive charge? _____

Negative charge? _____ No charge at all? _____

3. Analyze: An **isotope** is an alternative form of an element. Each isotope of an element has the same number of protons, but a different number of neutrons. The isotope is represented by the atomic symbol and mass number, such as He-4. Some isotopes are stable, while others are **radioactive**, which means the atoms decay over time and emit radiation.

A. What are the stable isotopes of carbon? _____

B. What are the stable isotopes of nitrogen? _____

C. List two radioactive isotopes of oxygen: _____

4. Practice: Use the Gizmo to answer the following questions.

A. How many electrons are in a neutral atom of lithium? _____

B. How many neutrons are in an atom of Mg-25? _____

C. What is the mass number of an atom with 5 protons and 7 neutrons? _____

D. An **ion** is a charged atom. How many electrons are in O^{2-} ? _____

E. How many electrons are in Mg^{2+} ? _____

Activity B: Electron configurations	<u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a neutral hydrogen atom (1 proton, 0 neutrons, 1 electron). 	
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Question: How are electrons arranged around the nucleus of an atom?

1. **Observe:** Add electrons to your atom until you have used all the available electrons. How are the electrons arranged? _____

2. **Analyze:** Electrons are arranged in orbits called **energy levels**, shown in the Gizmo.
 - A. How many electrons can fit in the first energy level? _____
 - B. How many electrons can fit in the second energy level? _____
 - C. How many electrons can fit in the third energy level? _____
3. **Observe:** Click **Reset** (🔄). The electrons in the outermost orbit, called **valence electrons**, help to create chemical bonds. Create a lithium atom (3 protons, 4 neutrons, 3 electrons).
How many *valence* electrons are in a neutral lithium atom? _____
4. **Diagram:** Turn on **Show electron dot diagram**. The valence electrons of an atom are shown in an **electron dot diagram**. Each dot represents a valence electron.
Draw the electron dot diagram for neutral lithium: ○ _____
5. **Practice:** Turn off **Show electron dot diagram**. Use the Gizmo to create a neutral atom of each of the following elements. Draw an electron dot diagram for each. When you are finished, turn on **Show electron dot diagram** and check your answers.

H •	He ••	Li •	Be ••	○ B ○	C	N
O	F	Ne	Na	Mg	Al	Si
6. **Extend your thinking:** Many properties are determined by the number of valence electrons.
Which element probably has similar properties to lithium? _____ Beryllium? _____
Explain: _____

