

Marietta City Schools

2025-2026 District Unit Planner

Grade & Course: Physical Science	Topic: Atomic Structure	Duration: 4 weeks
Teachers: Physical Science Teachers	Kelley Lowd, Dane Holihan	

Georgia Standards and Content:

SPS1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information from the Periodic Table to explain the relative properties of elements based on patterns of atomic structure.

- a. Develop and use models to compare and contrast the structure of atoms, ions, and isotopes. (*Clarification statement:* Properties include atomic number, atomic mass and the location and charge of subatomic particles.)
- b. Analyze and interpret data to determine trends of the following:
 - Number of valence electrons
 - Types of ions formed by main group elements
 - Location and properties of metals, nonmetals, and metalloids
 - Phases at room temperature
- c. Use the Periodic Table as a model to predict the above properties of main group elements.

Narrative / Background Information

Prior Student Knowledge: (REFLECTION – PRIOR TO TEACHING THE UNIT)

In fifth grade, students investigate the following:

S5P1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to explain the differences between a physical change and a chemical change.

- a. Plan and carry out investigations of physical changes by manipulating, separating, and mixing dry and liquid materials.
- b. Construct an argument based on observations to support a claim that physical changes in the state of water are due to temperature changes, which cause small particles that cannot be seen to move differently.
- c. Plan and carry out an investigation to determine if a chemical change occurred based on observable evidence (color, gas, temperature change, odor, new substance produced).

Link to GSE 8th Grade Science

These students have been exposed to the 8th Science GSE that lay the foundation for the high school Physical Science standards.

Unit Phenomena (LEARNING PROCESS)

How can you use carbon dating to estimate the age of organisms?

MYP Inquiry Statement: Scientific and technical advancements have enabled scientists to identify, model, and discover interactions, patterns, and relationships that exist between the natural world and human societies.

MYP Global Context:

Orientation in Space and Time Scales, duration, frequency and variability

Approaches to Learning Skills:

- Thinking Skills: Make inferences and draw conclusions
- Communication Skills: Organize and depict information logically

Disciplinary Core Ideas: (KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS)

By the end of grade 12

- Each atom has a charged substructure consisting of a nucleus, which is made of protons and neutrons, surrounded by electrons.
- The periodic table orders elements horizontally by the number of protons in the atom's nucleus and places those with similar chemical properties in columns.
- The repeating patterns of this table reflect patterns of outer electron states.
- The structure and interactions of matter at

Crosscutting Concepts:

(KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS)

Energy Interactions

Patterns

Models

Structure and Function

MYP Key and Related Concepts:

Select one Key Concept:

Relationships (MYP)

the bulk scale are determined by electrical forces within and between atoms.

- Chemical processes, their rates, and whether or not energy is stored or released can be understood in terms of the collisions of molecules and the rearrangements of atoms into new molecules.
- Chemical processes and properties of Developing and using models Analyzing and Interpreting Data Constructing Explanations Additional teacher notes are provided in the instructional segment Safety Elemental Na and Cl are dangerous and not appropriate in a classroom Chemicals should always be handled according to SDS By the end of this unit, students are using the following language in their speaking and writing during EXPLAIN or ELABORATE. -Atomic Structure -Properties -Patterns -Element -Trend -Compound -Stable -Properties
- Attraction and repulsion between electric charges at the atomic scale explain the structure, properties, and transformations of matter, as well as the contact forces between material objects.
- The strong and weak nuclear interactions are important inside atomic nuclei—for example, they determine the patterns of which nuclear isotopes are stable and what kind of decays occur for unstable ones.

Change (MYP/CC)

Energy (MYP/CC)

Interactions (MYP)

Patterns (MYP/CC)

Models (MYP/CC)

Structure and Function (MYP/CC)

Transformation (MYP)

Balance (MYP)

Select one or more RC:

Models

Possible Preconceptions/Misconceptions: (REFLECTION - PRIOR TO TEACHING THE UNIT)

Students may associate valence electron number with an element's period, rather than its group number.

Students tend to equate losing an electron with creating a negative, rather than positive, ion.

Students may confuse group numbers with an ion's charge.

Students may confuse the terms/definitions for atomic mass, mass number, and atomic number.

Students will often refer to atomic number and average atomic mass by their locations, rather than using the language of the standard.

Key Vocabulary: (KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS)

Atoms, protons, neutrons, nucleus, electron, electron cloud, energy levels, electron shells, valence shell, valence electrons, atomic number, atomic mass, mass number, periodic table, metal, nonmetal, metalloid, groups/families, period, representative elements, alkali metals, alkaline earth metals, halogens, noble gasses, cation, anion, covalent bonds, ion, element, compound, charge, chemical formula, subscript, coefficient, physical properties, chemical properties

Inquiry Questions:

Factual

What are atoms, ions, and isotopes?

What are the types of subatomic particles, what are their charges, and where are they located within an atom?

Conceptual

How has the model of the atom evolved over time?

How can models be used to demonstrate the similarities and differences between atoms, ions, and isotopes?

What trends can be found in the periodic table (# of valence electrons, types of ions formed, location and properties of metals/nonmetals/metalloids, phases at room temperature)?

How can the periodic table be used to predict the properties of elements based on atomic structure patterns?

How can I determine an element's atomic number and atomic mass, and what do these numbers represent?

Debatable

Radiocarbon dating is a key tool archaeologists use to determine the age of plants and objects made with organic material. But new research shows that commonly accepted radiocarbon dating standards can miss the mark, how does this new discovery call into question historical timelines?

Inaccuracies in radiocarbon dating.

MYP Objectives	Formative/Summative assessment		
MYP Criterion A ii. apply scientific knowledge and understanding to solve problems set in familiar and unfamiliar situations—Atom in a Bag Constructive Response - Essay question on Isotope use for aging fossils	Assessment Task: CFA 1: Element Symbol Reading: Atomic #, Mass #, Avg. Atomic Mass, Atomic Structure CFA 2: Isotopes, Building an Atom CSA: Cumulative Summative		Relationship between summative assessment task(s) and statement of inquiry: Students are required to demonstrate their understanding of SPS1, which includes the identification of patterns and relationships of atoms based upon the periodic table, through the completion of a multiple-choice, standards-aligned unit assessment that mimics the GA Milestones. Students will also demonstrate their understanding of atoms through a constructed response assessment which requires the writing and naming of compounds and formulas based on IUPAC nomenclature.
Unit Objectives: Learning Activities and Experiences	- Teaching and learning is focular to the second sec	used on developing conceptual under Evaluate: (LEARNING PROCESS)	Communicate: (LEARNING PROCESS)
Matter Introduction Lesson 1	Introduction to Matter Guided Notes What is Matter Task Card Activity Matter POGIL Mystery Powders Lab/Density Activity (Video for Review)	Matter Teacher designed formative assessment Mystery Powders Lab/Density Activity Density Problems - Discovery Education	What is matter task card posters Class discussions Small Group Activities

Atomic	Week 1	Week 1: Introduce guided	
Structure	Atomic Theory: Youtube	note/notebooks for interactive	
	Video Playlist	notebooks	
Week 1:	•		
	Black Box Model		
		Week 2:	
	Week 2:		
	Introduce Atomic Structure	Socratic seminar or	
	- charge and location direct	Think/Pair/Share - students point	
	instruction	out patterns in the periodic table.	
	p+/n0/e-		
	p /,	Introduce discussion rules.	
	Introducing Element	miroduce discussion raies.	
	Symbols:	Bell Ringer Formative Assessment	
	3,	- element identification	
	Atomic Race Activity	ciement identification	
	Bohr Model - direct	Building Bohr Model atoms with	
	instruction	manipulatives	
		i mampulatives	
	Introducing Bohr Model		
	Guided Notes		
	Guidea Notes		
Week 2:			
	Introduce Valence	Unit 1 CFA 1 - Atomic Structure	Socratic Seminar - noting the similarities in
	Electrons - direct	and Element Symbols (incl.	groups (optional)
	instruction	structure, particle charges,	
		electron number, proton number,	Activity- Teach Valence electrons by Groups -
	Reinforce Bohr Model	mass number, neutron number)	Lewis Dot Structures
		,	
	Introduce Lewis Dots and	practice drawing Lewis dots using	
	valence electrons guided	Groups to determine valence	
	notes	electrons (protons-electrons)	
			Practice Isotopes & Ions - Definition only -
		Practice Naming Isotopes	charges will be done in Unit 2- should be able
	Socratic Seminar - what is	·	to identify whether or not Number of
	different about this model?	Practice Isotope Notation	protons, neutrons, or electrons change.
	(Carbon 12 and Carbon 13	, '	
	and 14 as a model)		
	,		
	Defining Isotopes - guided		
	notes		
	Naming Isotopes		
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Week 3-4	PhET Inquiry: stable isotopes of the first 10 elements on PhET build an atom simulator	PhET atom game Atom in a Bag	Isotope Applications - Extension or On-level teacher's choice Groups to assign: C-13, O-18 (medicine), U-235, U-238,
	Introduce Atom in a Bag	Opener CFA 2: Valence Electrons, Lewis Dots, Define Ions and Isotopes - Symbols/Masses	Atom in a Bag
		CSA 1 REVIEW	
		CSA 1	

Resources (hyperlink to model lessons and/or resources):

Discovery Education: Chemistry Science Techbook Holt Science Spectrum Physical Science Textbook

General DE Chapter Resources: Interactive Periodic Table Interactive Glossary Engage & Explore Activities Explorations Virtual Labs Skill Builders Video Segments

CK12 High School Chemistry Flexbook/Adaptive Practice

Shared Physical Science Resources

https://marietta.schoology.com/group/4621413779/materials?f=231800526#/group/4621413779/materials

Reflection: Considering the planning, process and impact of the inquiry			
Prior to teaching the unit	During teaching	After teaching the unit	
 What does experience tell us about what to expect in this unit? Students may struggle to discern between pure substances: elements, molecules, and compounds. Students may associate valence electron number with an element's period, rather than its group number. Students tend to equate losing an electron with creating a negative, rather than positive, ion. Students may confuse group number with an ion's charge. Students will often refer to atomic number and average atomic mass by their locations, rather than using the language of the standard. Students struggle to recall element/molecule/compound vocab after weeks of atomic theory and periodic trends 	 - What can we adjust or change? - Did they do well on the CFA? - Overall students scored above 70% - What do we need to reteach? - Rewording of some questions to help students identify key terms and make connections - What do they need to practice more? - Using the periodic table as a tool 	- How well did the summative assessment task serve to distinguish levels of achievement? Chunk NOS Unit 0 throughout first semester to align skills with applications Adjustments need to be to the wording for some questions on the CSA - remove the charge questions focus only on valence electrons Revamp the MYP A - remove rubric from within the test to a separate page students were overwhelmed with the verbiage on the pages. *Working with PLC members to make these changes now to be ready for next year Testing protocols were discussed and decided on set items to be used for assessments to make data analysis valid for example using the same periodic table with defined parameters for all assessments - all items added need to b agreed upon ahead of time	