How to 1 Video Narrative

To learn how to interpret the Periodic Table, let's look closely at one of the boxes on the Periodic Table.

Each element has its own designated space on the Periodic Table. An element's name, symbol, atomic number, and atomic mass are included in its space.

This is the element's name. You may recognize many of the elements found on the Periodic Table.

This is the element's symbol.

Remember, the first letter of the symbol is capitalized.

Any additional letters are all lowercase.

The symbol may not always have the same letters as the element's name.

This is the atomic number. The atomic number represents the number of protons.

Notice there are two numbers in the box. The atomic number is always the smaller of the two numbers in the box. This number always represents the protons.

This is the atomic mass. The atomic mass number will always be the larger of the two numbers in the box.

If you round this number, it becomes the mass number. The mass number represents the number of protons and neutrons in an element. The mass number is larger because it represents both the protons and neutrons.