

# GROUP 13 BORON FAMILY

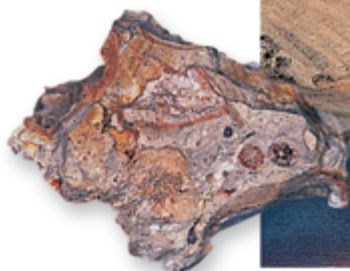
## CHARACTERISTICS

- do not occur in nature as free elements
- are scarce in nature (except aluminum, which is the most abundant metallic element)
- consist of atoms that have three electrons in their outer energy level
- are metallic solids (except boron, which is a solid metalloid)
- are soft and have low melting points (except boron, which is hard and has a high melting point)
- are chemically reactive at moderate temperatures (except boron)

*Boron is a covalent solid. Other members of the family are metallic solids.*



*The warmth of a person's hand will melt gallium. Gallium metal has the lowest melting point (29.77°C) of any metal except mercury.*



*Aluminum is the most abundant metal in Earth's crust. It exists in nature as an ore called bauxite.*

