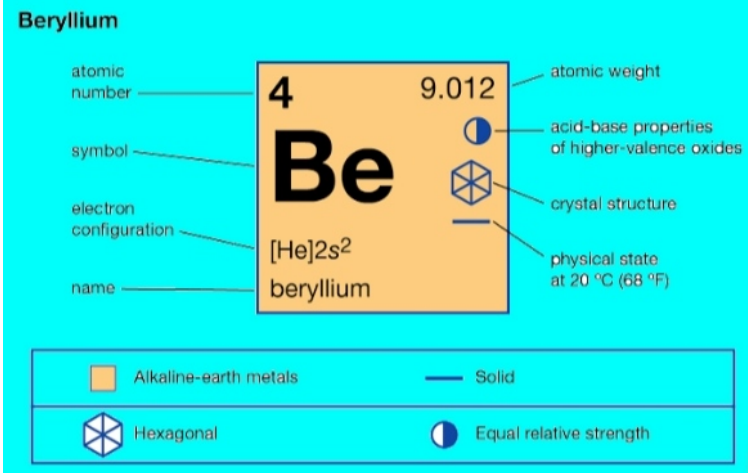
Beryllium



Etymology

The original source is probably the Sanskrit word वैडूर्य(vaidurya), which is of South Indian origin and could be related to the name of the modern city of Belur.

Discovery & Origin

In a 1798 paper read before the Institut de France, Vauquelin reported that he found a new "earth" by dissolving aluminium hydroxide from emerald and beryl in an additional alkali.The name "beryllium" was first used by Wöhler in 1828.

Friedrich Wöhler was one of the men who independently isolated beryllium

Properties

It is a bivalent and highly toxic element. The element has one of the highest melting points among the light metals. Beryllium exists in 30 different minerals, among which bertrandite, beryl, chrysoberyl, and phenacite are the most important.

Uses

Beryllium is used in gears and cogs particularly in the aviation industry. Its alloys are used as structural materials for high-speed aircraft, missiles, spacecraft and communication satellites and making gyroscopes, springs, electrical contacts.

Yash Vats