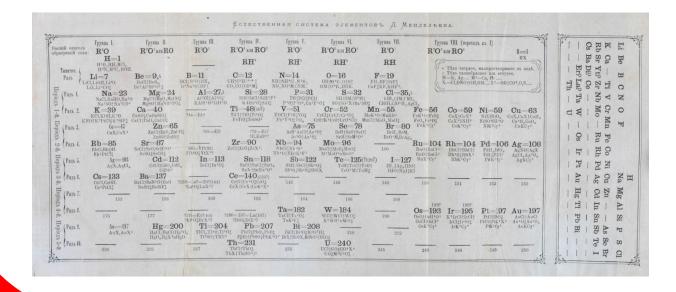
Early Periodic Tables

Until the 17th Century, the known elements were largely those that occur in elemental form in nature, such as gold, silver, and lead.

Scientific advances in the 18th and 19th Century led to many more elements being discovered. Scientists started to work to classify the elements, leading to the first periodic tables.



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Esprits acides.
Acide du sel marin.

Acide nitreux. Acide vitriolique.
Sel alcali fixe.
Sel alcali volatil. ▼ Terre absorbante.
Substances metalliques. Mercure. Regule d'Antimoine. O Or.

O Argent.

O Cuivre. O Fer. A Plomb. 2 Etain. PC Pierre Calaminaire. V Esprit de vin et Esprits an

Soufre mineral. [Principe. A Principe huileux ou Soufre H Esprit de vinaigre. ∇ Eau. O Sel

Above: The Affinity Table, dating from 1718, shows an early attempt to organise chemical species by their reactivity. Each column is headed by an substance which can combine with all substances below it. Many modern elements are present in the legend, together with substances such as vinegar, nitric acid, and metal oxides.

Adjacent: An early periodic table by Mendeleev, dating from 1870, showing elements organised into the familiar groups. Several gaps are visible.