

Relative Formula Mass

Answer the questions below.

1. State the chemical symbol for potassium.

K

2. List the elements in $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$.

Zinc, oxygen, hydrogen

3. Where on the periodic table are non-metals found?

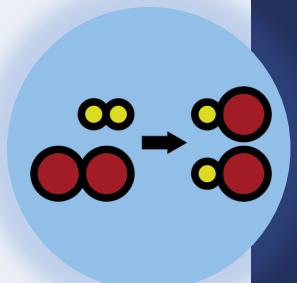
On the right-hand side

4. List 2 elements that are in group 1 of the Periodic Table

Lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, caesium, francium

5. How many atoms are there in $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$?

5



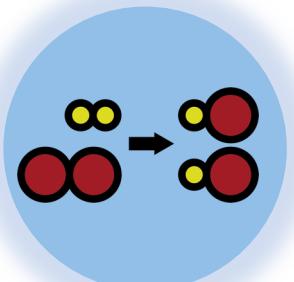
Relative Formula Mass

C3.2.2

Science
Mastery

- C3.2.1 Prior Knowledge Review
- **C3.2.2 Relative Formula Mass**
- C3.2.3 Percentage by Mass
- C3.2.4 Conservation of Mass
- C3.2.5 Balancing Equations
- C3.2.6 Uncertainty
- C3.2.7 Introducing Concentration

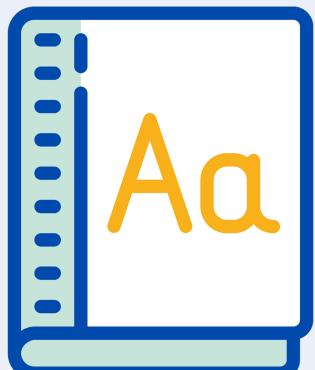
- C3.2.8 Concentration Calculations
- C3.2.9 Soluble Salts
- C3.2.10 Making Soluble Salts
- C3.2.11 Making Soluble Salts 2



Following this lesson, students will be able to:

- Recall that relative atomic mass can be written as A_r and relative formula mass can be written as M_r .
- State the relative atomic mass of an element
- Calculate the relative formula mass for a compound.

Key Words:



relative atomic mass

relative

relative formula mass

This is the fix-it portion of the lesson

The **fix-it** is an opportunity to respond to gaps in knowledge, especially those identified by the previous lesson's exit ticket.

- The teacher should customise this slide as needed, to facilitate
 - **reteach, explanation, demonstration** or **modelling** of ideas and concepts that students have not yet grasped or have misunderstood.
 - **practise** answering specific questions or of key skills.
 - **redrafting** or **improving** previous work.

Answer the questions below.

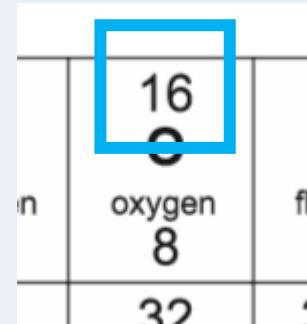
1. Ammonia (NH_3) contains:
 - A. 3 nitrogen atoms and 1 hydrogen atom
 - B. 3 nitrogen atoms and 3 hydrogen atoms
 - C. 3 hydrogen atoms and 1 nitrogen atom
2. How many hydrogen atoms are in the formula $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$?
 - A. 4
 - B. 8
 - C. 6
3. Copper carbonate reacted with hydrochloric acid. Which statement is correct?
 - A. Carbon dioxide is produced, and if it is bubbled through limewater it would turn cloudy/milky
 - B. Carbon dioxide is produced, and if it was bubbled through limewater it would remain clear
 - C. Carbon dioxide is not produced.

Relative Atomic Mass

Atoms are very small and have very little mass. So instead of using their actual mass in kg, their **relative** masses are used. This is the **relative atomic mass** or A_r .

The relative atomic mass of an **element** can be found in the **periodic table**.

Relative means compared to something else



16		
	oxygen	fl
8		
	32	

Use a periodic table to find the A_r of carbon. 12

The **relative atomic mass** (A_r) is the average mass of the atoms of an element compared to the mass of carbon-12.

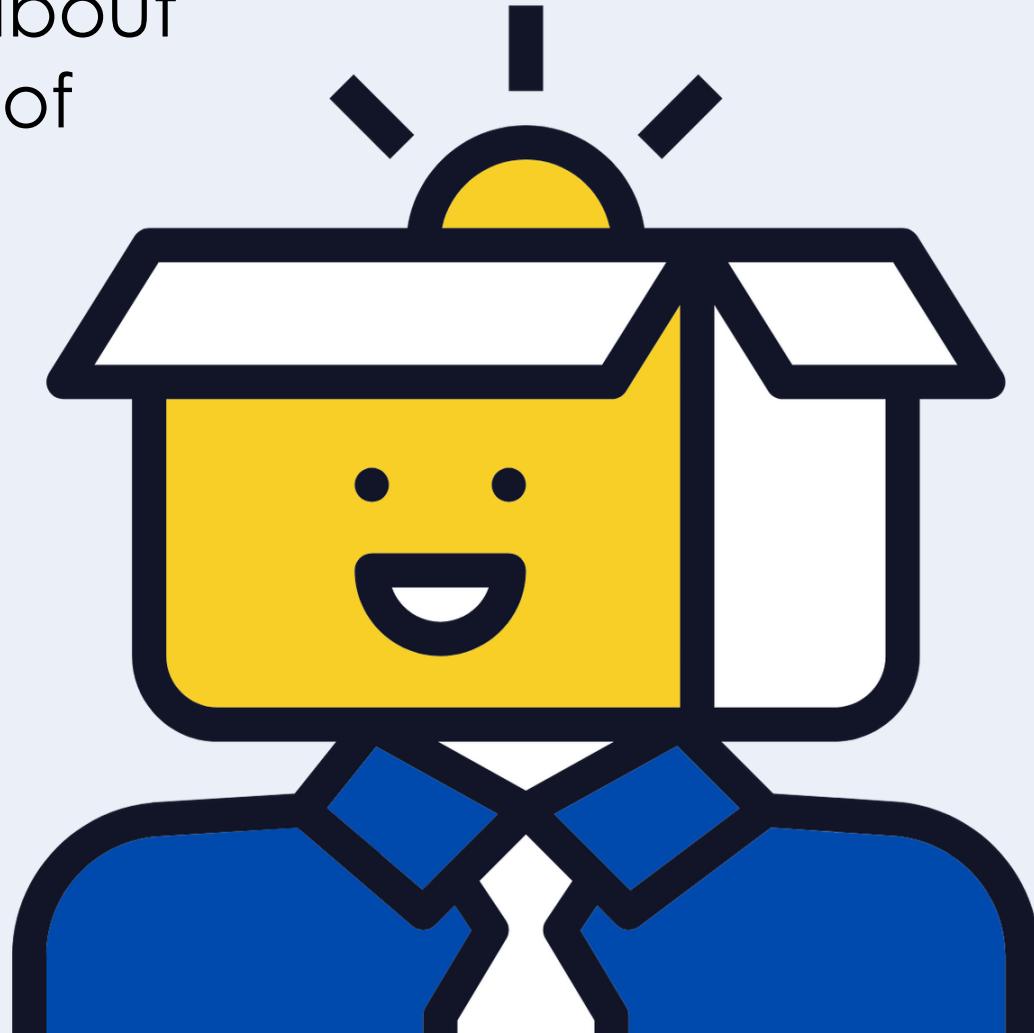
State the relative atomic mass (A_r) for the following elements.

1. Potassium **39**
2. Iron **56**
3. Neon **20**
4. Hydrogen **1**
5. Gold **197**
6. Sulfur **32**
7. Helium **4**
8. Magnesium **24**
9. Carbon **12**

You'll need
your Periodic
Table for this!

Think outside the box!

Why do you think we **use relative atomic masses** when talking about the mass of elements, instead of grams or kilograms?



Relative Formula Mass

For compounds (different elements combined together chemically) we can calculate the **relative formula mass** or M_r .

This is calculated by adding up the relative atomic masses of the all the atoms in the **formula**.

CO_2 contains 1 carbon atom and 2 oxygen atoms.

A_r : C = 12

O = 16

To calculate the M_r :

M_r of $\text{CO}_2 = 12 + (2 \times 16) = 44$

The **relative formula mass** (M_r) is the sum of the relative atomic masses of the elements in a compound.

Calculating the relative formula mass (M_r)

1. Calculate the M_r for the following compounds.

(A_r : H = 1; C = 12; N = 14; O = 16; K = 39)

a. NH_3 $14 + (1 \times 3) = 17$

b. O_2 $16 \times 2 = 32$

c. H_2O $(1 \times 2) + 16 = 18$

d. KOH $39 + 16 + 1 = 56$

2. Use your understanding of the conservation of mass to find the M_r of CaO . (M_r : $\text{CaCO}_3 = 100$; $\text{CO}_2 = 44$)



$$100 \quad ? \quad 44$$

$$100 - 44 = 56$$

$$100 = 56 + 44$$

Calculating relative formula mass

A student has written the following to work out the relative formula mass for $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$.

With your partner, discuss

- Why hasn't student done this calculation correctly?
- What should the answer be?

N - nitrogen

H - hydrogen

S - sulfur

O - oxygen

N – nitrogen x 1

H – hydrogen x 4

S – sulfur x 1

O – oxygen x 4

$\text{N} - 1 \times 7 = 7$

$\text{H} - 4 \times 1 = 4$

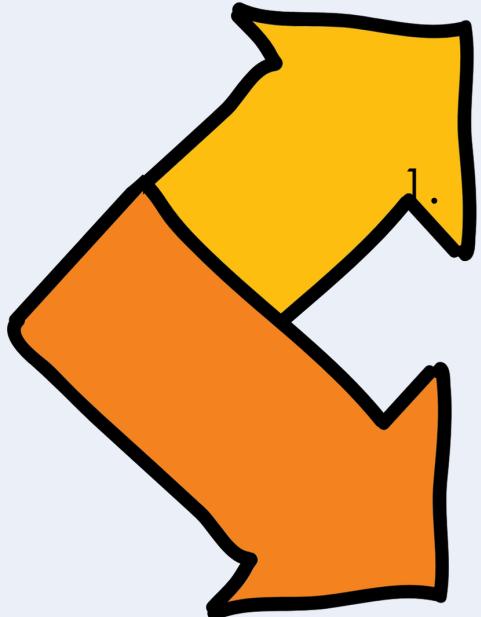
$\text{S} - 1 \times 16 = 16$

$\text{O} - 4 \times 8 = 32$

$$7 + 4 + 16 + 32 = \underline{59}$$

What is the difference between these two terms?

A_r



1. What is the relative molecular mass of Magnesium Chloride, $MgCl_2$?

M_r

Drill

1. What letters denote relative atomic mass?
2. What is the definition for relative atomic mass?
3. What is Mr ?
4. What is the difference between A_r and Ar ?
5. What is the relative atomic mas of Aluminium, Al ?
6. What is the relative molecular mass of sodium Chloride, $NaCl$?
7. How many atoms of each element are present in $Mg(OH)_2$?
8. What is the relative molecular mass of $Mg(OH)_2$?
9. How many atoms of each element are present in $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$?
10. What is the relative molecular mass of $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$?

Drill answers

1. A_r
2. The average mass of the atoms of an element compared to the mass of carbon 12
3. Relative formula mass
4. A_r is relative atomic mass and Ar is the symbol for argon
5. 27
6. $23 + 35.5 = 58.5$
7. Mg = 1, O = 2, H = 2
8. $24 + (16 \times 2) + (2 \times 1) = 58$
9. Ca = 3, P = 2 O = 8
10. $(40 \times 3) + (31 \times 2) + (16 \times 8) = 120 + 62 + 128 = 310$

I: Calculating relative formula mass

Magnesium nitrate, $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$

Mg is Magnesium, 24

N is Nitrogen, 14

O is Oxygen, 16

Magnesium: 1

Nitrogen: 2

Oxygen: 6

Magnesium: $24 \times 1 = 24$

Nitrogen: $14 \times 2 = 28$

Oxygen: $16 \times 6 = 96$

$24 + 28 + 96 = \underline{148}$

Steps:

1. Write out the **elements** and their **relative atomic masses**

2. Use the formula to write the **number of atoms** of each element

3. Calculate the **mass of the atoms** of each element (Relative atomic mass x number of atoms)

4. **Add up the total mass** of the elements (this is your M_r)

We: Calculating relative formula mass

Calcium carbonate, CaCO_3

Ca is Calcium, 40

C is Carbon, 12

O is Oxygen, 16

Calcium: 1

Carbon: 1

Oxygen: 3

Calcium: $40 \times 1 = 40$

Carbon: $12 \times 1 = 12$

Oxygen: $16 \times 3 = 48$

$40 + 12 + 48 = \underline{100}$

Steps:

1. Write out the **elements** and their **relative atomic masses**

2. Use the formula to write the **number of atoms** of each element

3. Calculate the **mass of the atoms** of each element (Relative atomic mass x number of atoms)

4. **Add up the total mass** of the elements (this is your M_r)

You: Calculating relative formula mass

Calcium phosphate, $\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$

Ca is Calcium, 40

P is Phosphate, 31

O is Oxygen, 16

Calcium: 3

Phosphate : 2

Oxygen: 8

Calcium: $40 \times 3 = 120$

Phosphate : $31 \times 2 = 62$

Oxygen: $16 \times 8 = 128$

$120 + 62 + 128 = 310$

Steps:

1. Write out the **elements** and their **relative atomic masses**

2. Use the formula to write the **number of atoms** of each element

3. Calculate the **mass of the atoms** of each element (Relative atomic mass x number of atoms)

4. **Add up the total mass** of the elements (this is your M_r)

Answer the questions below.

1. The relative formula mass for NH_3 is... (A_r : N = 14; H = 1)
 A. 17
 B. 15
 C. 45
2. The relative formula mass for Fe_2O_3 is...
 A. 384
 B. 160
 C. 76
3. Complete the sentence. The relative formula mass is
 A. The sum of the atomic mass of protons and electrons in a compound
 B. The sum of the relative atomic masses of the elements in a compound
 C. The sum of the relative atomic masses in an element

Lesson C3.2.2

What was good about this lesson?

What can we do to improve this lesson?

[Send us your feedback by clicking this link](#)
or by emailing sciencemastery@arkonline.org
Thank you!