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The Disappearing Spoon Intro

If there is one specific paper chemists look at very often and for the rest of their lives, it is the periodic table. A scientist, more specifically a chemist, work with the many different elements in the world. The periodic table is a cheat sheet which contains the identifying information of all the elements in this world, whether they are naturally occurring or man-made. The most commonly used elements are memorized after a while, but a chemist comes across those rare elements occasionally. For those instances, the periodic table contains the element's symbol, atomic number, atomic mass. Along with the elements identifying information the table also provides the electronegativity, electron configuration, and valence numbers for an element. All this information is arranged in to specific rows and columns called families and periods which are used to determine the properties of the elements. All this information is packed into one paper making the periodic table one of the most useful tool a chemist could use.