Elemon: a free periodic table card game where every move is a real fact

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Elemon turns all 118 elements into monster cards whose moves are true facts. Free in the browser, no ads, no sign-up, no chat. How it plays and how to use it at home.

Elemon is a free card game in the browser that turns all 118 elements of the periodic table into monster cards, and every move a card has is a true fact about that element. Sodium attacks with Salt Bond because sodium and chlorine make table salt. Hydrogen charges up with Star Fuel because stars shine by squeezing hydrogen into helium. There are no ads, no accounts, nothing to download and no chat. It is made for elementary school kids, and older kids can play it too.

We've added it to our list of the 21 best sites for STEM projects at home. It's near the top, alongside the Exploratorium and PhET, because it does what the best of them do: it makes a part of science you can't easily do at the kitchen table into something a child can poke at.

Elemon isn't ours. Its makers wrote to us to suggest it, and we played it before saying yes. They tell parents openly that the creature art was made with AI image tools and edited by hand, and that a person checked the chemistry.

How a match plays

Each player has five cards. Every round, both players secretly pick a move, or switch to another card in their hand. Knock out three of the other side's cards and you win.

Every card has three moves, and each move has a little "i" button. Tap it and the card tells you the real science behind the move in one or two sentences. That button is the whole lesson. A child picks Green Flame for boron because it does damage, then taps the "i" and finds out boron really does burn with a green flame.

You can play the computer at three levels. Easy is the Rookie Trainer, who hits hard but never switches, and your cards get extra health. Hard is Professor Nova, who thinks two rounds ahead. Or two kids can play each other on two devices by opening a "table" with a shared name.

The nine types are the periodic table

Every element has one type, and the type comes from where the element sits on the real table:

- Elemon type: Blast · Where it is on the periodic table: The reactive metals, groups 1 and 2 · Examples: Sodium, calcium

- Elemon type: Life · Where it is on the periodic table: Hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and a few more · Examples: Hydrogen, oxygen
- Elemon type: Acid · Where it is on the periodic table: The halogens · Examples: Fluorine, chlorine
- Elemon type: Noble gas · Where it is on the periodic table: The noble gases in the last column · Examples: Helium, neon
- Elemon type: Crystal · Where it is on the periodic table: The metalloids · Examples: Boron, silicon
- Elemon type: Metal · Where it is on the periodic table: The everyday metals, including the transition metals · Examples: Iron, aluminum
- Elemon type: Rare Earth · Where it is on the periodic table: The lanthanides, the first row printed under the table · Examples: Neodymium
- Elemon type: Nuclear · Where it is on the periodic table: The actinides, the second row under the table · Examples: Uranium
- Elemon type: Synthetic · Where it is on the periodic table: Elements 104 to 118, made in labs · Examples: Oganesson

A type beats some others for double damage, and most matchups come from real chemistry. Blast beats Life because reactive metals react violently with water, and living things are mostly water. Acid beats Metal because halogens corrode many metals. What we liked most is that Elemon is honest about the rest: its teachers page marks three matchups as game rules, not science, so a child doesn't walk away believing something false.

Eight pairs of elements are "bond buddies" that get stronger on the same team, because they join in real life: hydrogen and oxygen make water, iron and oxygen make rust, iron and carbon make steel, silicon and oxygen make sand.

Using it at home

A match takes about fifteen minutes the first time, because the facts are worth reading. A few ways to get more out of it:

1. Read the facts aloud together. Younger players do best with a grown-up reading the "i" lines. Ask "do you think that's true?" before you read it.
2. Find the bond buddies in your kitchen. Table salt is sodium and chlorine. A rusty nail is iron and oxygen. Water is hydrogen and oxygen. A steel spoon is mostly iron with a little carbon.
3. Make a rust jar. Put a piece of steel wool in a jar with a splash of water and leave it for a few days. That's the iron and oxygen bond buddy happening on your windowsill.
4. Print the cards. Elemon has free printable cards for the first 20 elements, with the art on the front and the science on the back, plus a periodic table bingo set.
5. Leave the dramatic ones to the game. Sodium bursting into flame in water is a real fact,

and it stays a fact on a screen. Never try it at home.

For teachers, the Elemon teachers page has a 45-minute lesson plan built on five steps, an exit check, and notes on running it on school Chromebooks.

What to know first

- Friend tables are public until someone joins. The name you give a table shows in a list of open tables on the site until the second seat fills. Pick a table name that doesn't include your child's name or school, and have the friend join right away. Matches against the computer never show in that list.
- The nickname is optional. Leave it blank or use a made-up one.
- There is no chat. The only words the other player sees are the table name and the nickname.
- The site counts visits with Google Analytics. Its makers say ad personalization is turned off. There are no ads in the game.
- It needs a connection. Even games against the computer talk to Elemon's server, so a school filter might block it. Try one match first.

How it fits with Peabody

Elemon is chemistry for kids who love collecting cards. Peabody is reading: free stories at every level from the very first readers to 8th grade, plus science reading for kids. If your child finishes a match wondering what an atom actually is, there's a story for that in Peabody's library. Peabody is free through the end of 2026.

Questions parents ask

Is Elemon free?

Yes. It is free to play in a web browser, with nothing to buy, no in-game money and no ads.

What age is Elemon for?

Its makers built it for elementary school kids. If a child can follow a monster card game, they can follow Elemon. Younger kids do best with someone reading the move facts aloud, and middle schoolers can use it to learn the families of the periodic table.

Does my child need an account?

No. There is no sign-up and nothing to install. It runs in the browser on a phone, tablet or computer.

Can kids talk to strangers in Elemon?

No. There is no chat. Players only send game moves. A friend table's name is visible on the site until a second player joins, so keep names that don't say who your child is.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/elemon-periodic-table-card-game