

Science Fables

The Tiny Building Blocks

Story Quiz

This quiz checks what you learned about atoms, molecules, and compounds — the tiny building blocks of everything around us.

1. What is an atom?

- A. Two or more elements mixed together
- B. The smallest unit of an element that retains its properties
- C. A substance made of different molecules
- D. Two or more atoms bonded together

2. Which of the following is an element?

- A. Water (H_2O)
- B. Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
- C. Gold (Au)
- D. Salt (NaCl)

3. What is a molecule?

- A. Two or more atoms chemically bonded together
- B. A substance made of only different elements
- C. A single atom
- D. Two substances physically mixed together

4. Which of the following is a molecule but NOT a compound?

- A. Water (H_2O)
- B. Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
- C. Salt (NaCl)
- D. Oxygen gas (O_2)

5. Why is water (H_2O) both a molecule and a compound?

- A. It contains only oxygen atoms
- B. It contains hydrogen and oxygen atoms chemically bonded together
- C. It contains only one atom
- D. It is a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen

Answer Key



1. B — The smallest unit of an element that retains its properties

An atom is the smallest unit of an element that retains its properties.

2. C — Gold (Au)

Gold (Au) is an element. Water, carbon dioxide, and salt are compounds.

3. A — Two or more atoms chemically bonded together

A molecule is two or more atoms chemically bonded together.

4. D — Oxygen gas (O₂)

Oxygen gas (O₂) is a molecule made of the same element, so it is not a compound.

5. B — It contains hydrogen and oxygen atoms chemically bonded together

Water is both a molecule and a compound because it contains hydrogen and oxygen atoms chemically bonded together.